■ Lifestyle / C1
First winner of PDI Family Recipe Contest comes from Lucban, Quezon

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Ayala's BPI to buy Prudential Bank for P6.13-B

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Case vs Magdalo group prescribed Tuesday midnight

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Household of 4 robbed, killed in Caloocan

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GMA to form consultative body for changes in Charter

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

EVEN if the Senate is reluctant for now to go along with her plan, President Macapagal-Arroyo is forging ahead with her proposal to change the Constitution through a constituent assembly to pave the way for a parlia-

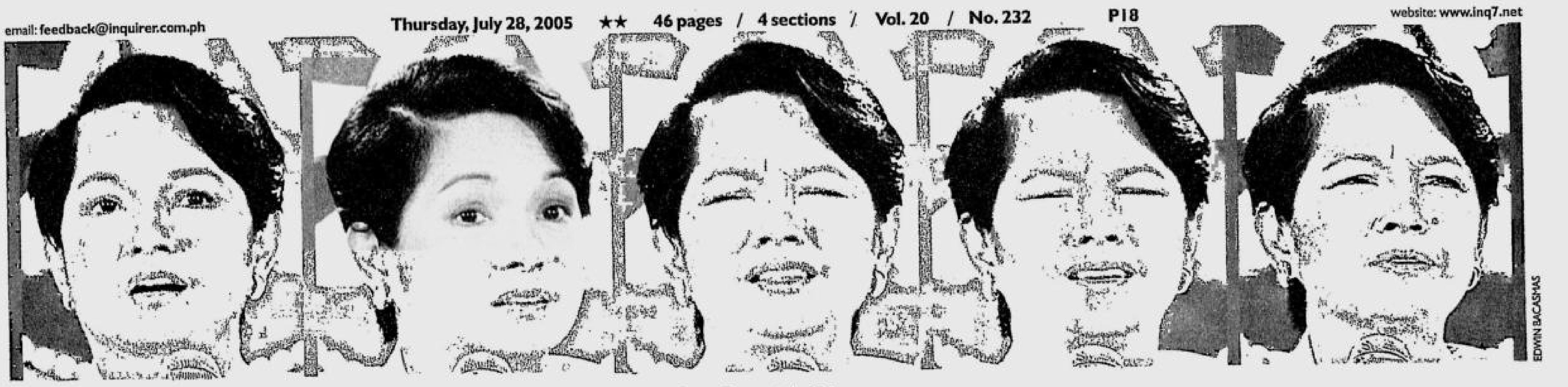
GMA TO FORM/ A6

Opposition solons vow 'tons of evidence' against GMA

AFTER failing to force an immediate impeachment trial of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Senate, an opposition lawmaker yesterday said she would "suffer" upon the presentation of "tons of evidence" against her at the House of Representatives.

Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap), San Juan

OPPOSITION/ A6



EDWIN BACASMAS

IN YOUR FACE. President Arroyo displays a variety of emotions as she meets the Malacañang Press Corps at the Palace.

Now, it's back to 'jueteng'

Archbishop Cruz claims his witness directly links President

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

IT SUPPOSEDLY happened right before the eyes of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

All 13 regional directors of the Commission on Elections were allegedly summoned in groups into a hotel room in Metro Manila to meet the President one afternoon shortly before the 2004 elections.

There, with Ms Arroyo as their witness, they each allegedly received P2 million in cash from Lilia Pineda, wife of Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, who is widely believed to be a gambling lord in the President's home province of Pampanga.

This will be the story that a new witness will give should the Senate investigation of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game, resume, Archbishop Oscar Cruz said yesterday.

Cruz and Cam, who was also at the press conference, refused to say if the witnesses were male or female, but Cam described one of them as a "former top government official belonging to a political dynasty."

"This is A-1 information and Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo knows the person I'm referring to," Cam said.

Asked why the President would make herself available at such an illegal and delicate situation, Cam said "she trusted the person."

The Senate probe had stalled after the confrontation between Frank Chavez, lawyer of another witness, Sandra Cam, and Sen. Richard Gordon over the lawmaker's badgering of Cam at the last hearing on July 12.

A Malacañang official said he found the alleged payoffs to Comelec officials unbelievable.

"That's the first time I've heard such a story and it just sounds too incredible to believe," said Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for political affairs.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

NOW, IT'S BACK/ A7

EDWIN BACASMAS

SHUT OUT. Media men working for foreign news agencies fume as they pack up and walk out of the Palace after being barred from covering the President's first news conference in seven weeks. Says one, "Never happened in darkest days of the Marcos years."

GMA: We have an economy to run

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo looked relaxed, confident and congenial in her first face-to-face meeting with the press since the worst political crisis of her administration hit fever pitch six weeks ago.

"My feelings are not important," said the President, putting on her best "Ate Glo" persona, one deeply pious and forgiving, as TV cameras whirred.

"What is important is what we can do for the nation. I am not a dramatic person, I am a hard-working person. I did not become a President to enjoy [myself]," said Ms Arroyo.

The President attributed her resiliency—even when pushed to the verge of resignation—to her inner strength which she said she drew from her prayers and unwavering faith in God.

"The Lord is kind-hearted, not because we are worthy, but because God is good," she said.

Ms Arroyo has endured being told she is unworthy of her office by once staunch allies, including former President Corazon Aquino, and mutinous Cabinet officials collectively known as the "Hyatt 10." She was branded as a liar, a thick-skinned cheat by Susan Roces, widow of the late Fernando Poe Jr., who accused her of stealing the presidency "not once, but twice."

The 58-year-old President did not re-

GMA/ A10

Palace media blitz backfires

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT was supposed to be the start of President Macapagal-Arroyo's media image-building blitz was bombarded by local and foreign journalists yesterday.

Malacañang's propagandists put on a travesty of a press conference in Ms Arroyo's first media interaction since the "Hello Garci" scandal exploded June 6 and engulfed her in the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old administration.

First, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye turned away journalists, photographers and TV crews belonging to international news organizations.

Aides claimed the press conference was strictly for members of the Malacañang Press Corps, denying foreign reporters access to the event for the first time.

Veteran local and foreign journalists said the move was unprecedented.

"I couldn't believe it," said Time correspondent Nelly Sindayen who was turned away at the door. "I was a bit surprised. It never happened before, even during the darkest days of the Marcos years."

Francisco Tatad, former senator and press secretary for ex-President Ferdinand Marcos, said: "This is crazy. That's a no-no! It doesn't help her."

Karl Wilson, president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, fired off a letter expressing disappointment.

"This being the President's first press conference since the political crisis began in early June, I would have thought it warranted

PALACE/ A10

HUMIHIRIT ANG MGA GURANG!

Erap wants out to prepare for his defense

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada has asked the Sandiganbayan special division hearing his 4-year-old plunder case to grant him bail as he's not a flight risk.

Plunder is a nonbailable offense. Estrada must also be allowed to

ERAP/ A8

Raul vs Satur: DOJ seeks probe of party-list pork

By Armand N. Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez has asked the Commission on Audit to check on the multimillion-peso pork barrel funds of legislators belonging to leftist party-list groups, saying the money could be bankrolling rallies against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an unscheduled press briefing, Gonzalez yesterday disclosed a list from the Department of Budget and Management showing the party-list representatives of Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Anakpawis and Gabriela receiving up to P25 million each.

He stood pat on his claim that the lawmakers' allocations under the Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF), derisively called pork barrel, could be financing protest actions instead of being used for rice and

RAUL/ A8

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

VIP AT PDI. INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto meets Adrian "Adi" Maronilla Jr. but he only has eyes for Guyito, the paper's carabao mascot.

Whiz kid visits PDI, to meet with GMA

By Madonna Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

HE'S ALL of 4 years old but already Adrian "Adi" Maronilla Jr. has a packed schedule worthy of a national figure, including a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Palace.

After all, he's not called "Wonder Boy" for nothing.

He has been invited by Ms Arroyo to Malacañang for the launching of the "bright child" campaign on Friday afternoon.

In the morning, Adi is scheduled to take an IQ exam at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. He has been invited to guest in several TV

WHIZ KID/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience occasional rains. Rains will be frequent over the western sections. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/07/28/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Rains

Time runs out on Magdalo trial

STICKING his tongue out, Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes goes into the court martial proceedings which resulted in a time forfeit for prosecutors at the stroke of midnight Tuesday. Trillanes, however, will still face court martial for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman because, unlike his co-accused, he had already been arraigned. JOAN BONDOC

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Armand N. Nocum

THE JUNIOR military officers who led the infamous Oakwood mutiny in Makati in July 2003 appear on the way to being exonerated of military crimes as their court martial ended quietly yesterday without the 20 officers being called to the bar to answer the charges.

The case against the self-styled "Magdalo" coup plotters prescribed at the stroke of midnight on Tuesday, despite last-ditch, race-against-time efforts by military prosecutors.

At the end of a 15-hour-long hearing, the six-member military tribunal headed by Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr. failed to arraign the 29 junior officers.

Under the law, the officers can no longer be tried for violations of the Articles of War since they were still not arraigned two years after the mutiny.

Guerzon said the court would formally rule on the dismissal of the charges against 27 out of the 29 coup leaders in today's hearing.

But he said two of the officers, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, the group's spokesperson, and Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, another of the alleged ringleaders, would be standing trial.

A top official of the Department of Justice clarified, however, that the 31 officers involved in the Oakwood mutiny are not yet off the hook with the dismissal of the court martial case as the criminal case of coup d'etat against them remains pending in a civilian court.

The DOJ explained the variance in figures thus: of the 31 officers involved, one was still at large, another was dismissed from service and was therefore not included in the court martial although he is liable in the criminal case.

Assistant chief state prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon expressed surprise at why the military prosecutors allowed the case against the 29 officers to prescribe.

"The question is why did they allow it to prescribe without these people being arraigned [when they knew] that the prescription period was two years," Fadullon said.

But he said the dismissal would not affect the case against 31 Oakwood officers now pending at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

"As far as the department is concerned, these are two different cases," he said, adding that the DOJ was intent on "pursuing the criminal aspect" of the case.

He said the DOJ has been presenting evidence to the prosecution panel at the Makati RTC and that they have filed a motion before the Court of Appeals against the lower court's grant of bail to 27 of the 31 accused.

At 12:19 a.m. yesterday, Guerzon adjourned the court martial hearing because of a lack of quorum as two members inhibited themselves after a "challenge for cause" by the defense panel.

Guerzon said the court could not rule to dismiss right away because of the absence of a quorum. He summoned all 29 officers to appear in court today.

Earlier on Tuesday, the court ruled that the two-year prescription period would set in at midnight.

Trillanes will be standing trial as he was arraigned on the charge of violating Articles of War 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, last July 20.

Defense lawyers said they were surprised when Guerzon said that Maestrecampo would be standing trial with Trillanes.

The mutinous officers could be seen in high spirits as the evening wore on.

Military prosecutors also seemed to have accepted the fact that they would not be able to arraign the rest of the coup leaders.

As the court went into yet another closed-door deliberation at 11:55 p.m., two of the prosecutors went around shaking hands with other prosecutors.

The accused officers also happily congratulated each other, while some could be seen checking their watches every now and then.

But they did not show any signs of rejoicing when the hearing adjourned. They knew they would not be released that easily.

Defense lawyer Ed Abaya said even if the dismissal of the charges was expected, the officers could still remain in detention.

"The matter of their release is in the discretion of the convening authority who is the chief of staff (Gen. Efren Abu). I leave it to him but there should be a basis for their continued detention," Abaya said.

The same officers are also waiting to be allowed to post bail by the Makati RTC where they are charged with coup d'etat.

Abaya said the dismissal of the Articles of War charges because of prescription was the result of the prosecution's "blunder."

From 9 a.m. to midnight Tuesday, military prosecutors tried to arraign the group, but numerous challenges from the defense, lengthy debates on the prescription period, and several closed-door deliberations of the court ate up the time.

Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila, one of the prosecutors, said they were only following "due process."

Lead military prosecutor Col. Julius Magno continued to engage in lengthy debates with defense lawyer Abaya even as the time edged closer and closer to midnight.

He appeared to be in a daze when the court adjourned without the arraignment.

He then said he would have to report to the "convening authority," referring to Abu.

Magno also told the court they would go to the Supreme Court to reverse a ruling by the court that 23 of the 29 officers were not yet considered arraigned.

El Shaddai nominee jockeying for top DepEd post

By Alcuin Papa

THE INFLUENTIAL El Shaddai sect has waded into the fierce rivalry for the top post at the education department, coming out in support of Augusto Syjuco, the head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, who is openly campaigning to have himself appointed as education secretary.

A letter of recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo from El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, described Syjuco as "a good problem-solver in the social context and a pro-active thinker" in the field of technical education.

"Secretary Syjuco is a man of action and his achievement in the field of technical education speaks well of his capability which will be more useful to the nation, if he were to be Secretary of Education which is at the base of the educational system," Velarde said in his July 25 letter.

Also reportedly endorsing Syjuco, a businessman and former congressman from Iloilo, is Leticia Ramos-Shahani, the presidential adviser on culture and the sister of former President Fidel Ramos.

In her own letter to the Office of the President dated July 15, Shahani described Syjuco as a "progressive and well-informed educator who has a firm grasp of the requirements of vocational education in the country."

Syjuco also claims to already have the support of the DepEd National Employees' Union.

Syjuco also boasted to reporters that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza would recommend both him and his rival, Eduardo Nachura, a law dean and former congressman from Samar.

Nachura was earlier reported to have clinched the support of Atienza, a staunch ally of the President and her campaign manager in Metro Manila during the 2004 presidential elections.

Atienza and Nachura, who served as DepEd undersecretary for legal affairs at one time, are both members of the Liberal Party.

Syjuco is also said to have helped Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential elections by ensuring votes from his province. He is a former congressman from Iloilo.

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'Garci' does not live here anymore

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CONDOMINIUM unit in Ermita, Manila where Commission on Elections (Comelec) official Virgilio Garcillano used to live has a new owner.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) spokesperson Auralyn Pascual said that building administrators told NBI agents who tried to serve the subpoena ordering the beleaguered commissioner to appear at the congressional hearing next week that new occupants had moved into the Garcillano's last known Manila address.

"The building officials said they haven't seen the Commissioner for a long time," Pascual said, adding that the agents left copies of the subpoena with the administration staff.

Aside from serving copies of the subpoena at Unit 904 Gotesco Tower on Concepcion Street where Garcillano last lived, the agents also tried to issue the summons at the Comelec official's residence at 2006 Casimiro Tamparong St., RER Subdivision, Cagayan de Oro City.

"But there was nobody inside the house so the agents left the copies of the subpoena with the village guards," Pascual said.

The NBI spokesperson also said that a caretaker of Garcillano's farmhouse in Bukidnon received a copy of the subpoena in the Comelec official's place.

"The caretaker said he last saw Garcillano at the farmhouse during the third week of June," Pascual said.

Pascual added that they are now pursuing leads on Garcillano's whereabouts.

"As of now, Garcillano could not be forced to appear before Congress because there is no arrest warrant issued against him," Pascual explained.

Palace proposes P1-trillion budget

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG will propose P1-trillion national budget for next year, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

President Arroyo told reporters that the executive has until Aug. 25, or one month after Congress opens to submit its budget proposal for 2006.

The President also allayed fears that Congress would be unable to pass the proposed 2006 budget because it has a full schedule ahead of it this year, including the impeachment case filed against her as well as her proposal for Charter changes.

Ms Arroyo said the country has a system where the previously approved budget could be reenacted in the event that the proposed budget is not passed. This, she said, was unlike the system in the United States where the failure of the US Congress to pass its national budget would see government there grind to a halt.

ARROYO

Moro rebs say GMA overstated gov't gains in talks

COTABATO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo overstated the gains of the Mindanao peace process in her state of the nation address, a Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader claimed yesterday.

During the Sona on Monday, the President claimed that the peace negotiations with the MILF were 85 percent complete.

MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal said this served to create a "false impression" that all the fundamental issues have been resolved.

While the President's statement was a positive way of looking at the peace process, Iqbal said that "a lot of contentious issues have yet to be resolved," such as basic issues like governance and finding a just and lasting solution to the Mindanao problem.

Iqbal said there was no shortcut in resolving these issues, "except by facing them squarely on the table in an atmosphere of sincerity, understanding and creativeness."

He said the issues on governance and the final solution to the peace and order problem in Mindanao remained the trickiest and most difficult and could still derail the talks.

Negotiations between the government and the MILF, aimed at ending the decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion in the south, were supposed to resume on Sunday but host Malaysia decided to postpone it, saying the parties to the negotiations were not yet ready.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem, Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

No more 'Hello Garci,' please, Abalos tells ARMM poll officials

By Jerome Aning

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday said he does not want a repeat of the the "Hello, Garci" incident so he was giving the agency's officials and personnel a chance to back out of their duties in the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"My appeal to them is: Those of you who cannot independently perform your duty and if you believe you could be pressured, please let me know so I can replace you," Abalos told reporters.

The chair was referring to the so-called "Gloriagate" controversy regarding alleged wiretapped conversations between former Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Macapagal-Arroyo on how to rig the results of last year's elections.

The controversy raised doubts on the independence of the election agency, and numerous politicians and sectors have asked Abalos and the other commissioners to step down.

Abalos and his colleagues have dismissed such calls and instead focused their efforts on the ARMM elections.

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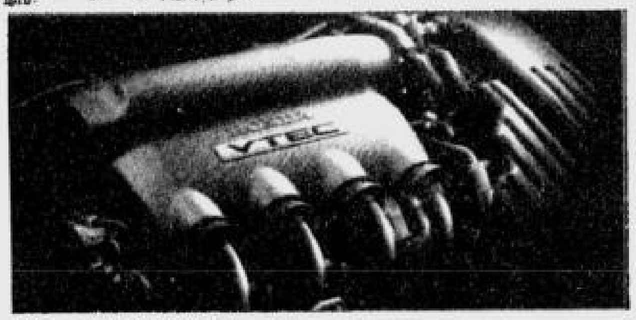

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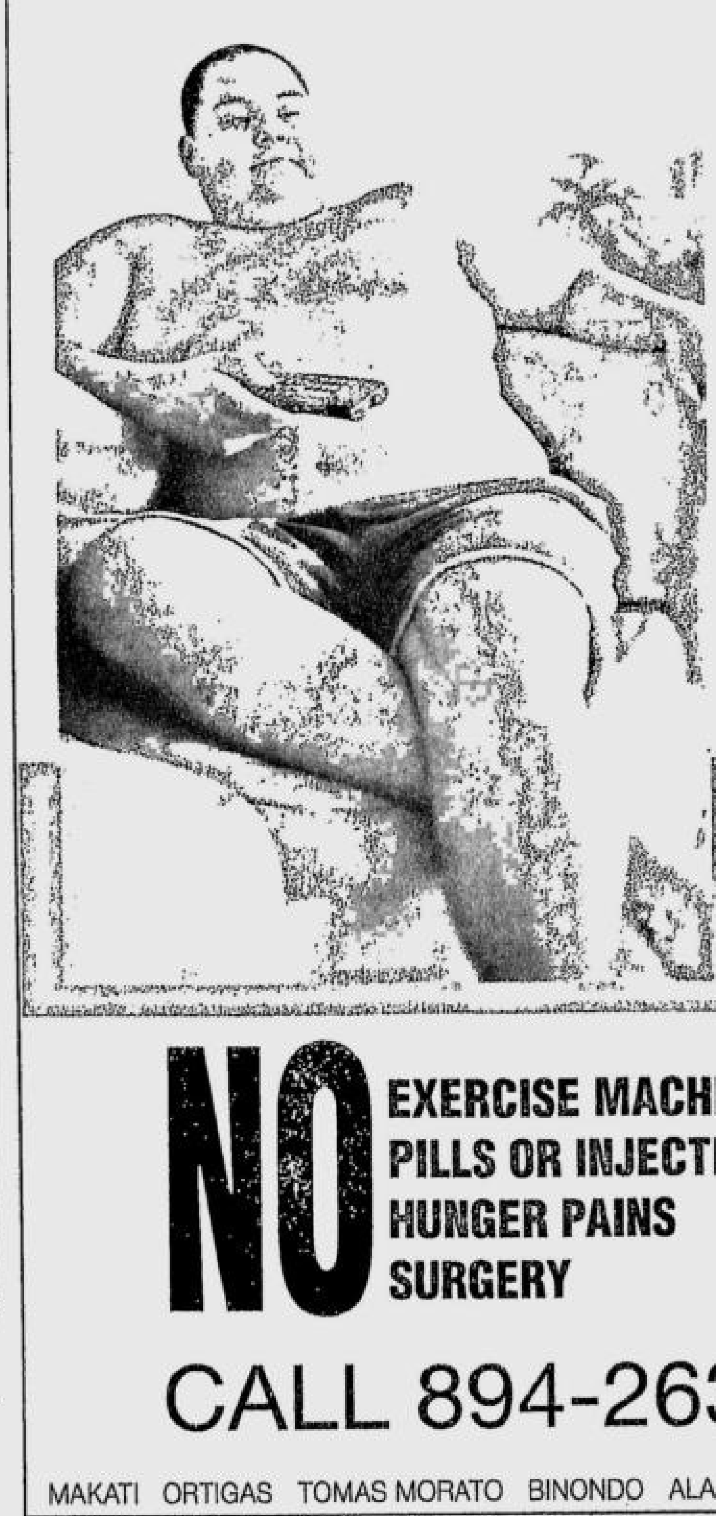

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2-WEEK SETBACK

VAT faces more delay

By Armand N. Nocum

THE POSSIBILITY of a slight delay in the resolution of the constitutionality issue of the expanded Value Added Tax Law before the Supreme Court has emerged after the high tribunal yesterday gave a fifth petitioner against the revenue measure 10 days to comment on a petition he filed last week.

The court asked Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr., whose petition was filed after the oral arguments of the four other petitioners were held last July 14, to submit his arguments for consideration of the court.

The decision could set back by up to two weeks the expected resolution of the case, the SC public information chief, Ismael Khan, conceded yesterday.

"We are still hopeful that the court could still make it by Aug. 15," Khan said, adding that the decision "could definitely be made within the month of August."

3 points

After the July 14 hearing, the court gave the first four petitioners 10 days to submit a summary of their arguments. As a result, it was expected that the SC would be issuing its ruling on the case by the first week of August.

Khan said the justices were now tackling the three contentious points in the four earlier petitions. These concerned the alleged undue delegation of power to the President to raise the VAT rate; the allegation that the bicameral conference committee exceeded its authority in deleting or inserting provisions in the law; and the question of whether the court could look into the process involved in the passage of a law that is being assailed as being allegedly unconstitutional.

The issues were raised by four petitioners that included legislators and petroleum dealers.

Khan said the high court cannot avoid the delay because it has to give due course to Garcia's petition.

He said Garcia "has raised entirely new points that were not covered in the oral arguments or in the earlier petitions."

Garcia argued that the VAT law would allow VAT-covered establishments to ultimately keep for their benefit a maximum of seven percent out of the 10 percent input tax credits, in violation of the basic constitutional principle that taxes should not benefit private interest but to finance and fund government functions and operations.

Input tax

The input tax is paid by a manufacturer for the importation and purchase of raw materials and services. This is supposed to be offset by the output tax imposed on the sale or lease of taxable goods, services or properties.

The input tax was originally meant to address the underreporting of output VAT and the over-reporting of input VAT by non-compliant taxpayers.

Meanwhile, Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos yesterday proposed that the government impose a two-year moratorium on the collection of the VAT on oil companies and power firms, saying this would ease the burden on millions of taxpayers.

Abalos filed a joint House resolution on July 25 proposing the moratorium, in which he argued that even without the collection of the VAT on oil companies and power firms, the government could still reduce the budget deficit.

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION

T/Sgt. Vidal Doble and his wife Arlene walk through mediamen as they enter the Court of Appeals for the petition for habeas corpus filed by his mistress, Marita Santos. Doble had claimed that former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director Samuel Ong paid him P2 million to admit that he was the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes that is the center of the raging "Gloriagate" wiretapping scandal.

STOCK OPTION CANCELLATION

Luisita has time on its side

By Blanche S. Rivera

TIME may well work in favor of the Cojuangco clan, the owners of Hacienda Luisita, according to an official of the Department of Land Reform.

The 5,000-hectare hacienda could end up being given to the farmers working the estate if an ongoing investigation were to find that management had violated a stock distribution option agreement.

However, the land can only be distributed after a lengthy legal process that may well last beyond the 2008 deadline for land redistribution.

The DLR expects to receive the final report with recommendations from the Task Force Luisita probe team this week.

"The task force only investigates compliance. It cannot decide, it will just recommend. It's up to the [DLR] Secretary to act on that, whether he will advise the farmers to file a case in court pertaining to revocation or if they should file in the DAR Adjudication Board," said DLR Central Luzon director Narciso Nieto in a phone interview.

Nieto said only a regular court or the Darab can revoke the memorandum of agreement between the Luisita management and the farm workers, under which the workers opted for the stock distribution option instead of land acquisition in 1989.

Existing contract

"There is an existing contract. When any term of the contract and obligations is violated, they may take it to a regular court. If it's agrarian issues, maybe they can file with the Darab," Nieto said.

He also said only the parties of interest in Hacienda Luisita could initiate any legal action to revoke the strock distribution option agreement and memorandum of agreement.

"There is due process for this. They (management) can still question it in the Supreme Court. It would take a long time," he said.

Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the DLR should complete land acquisition and distribution by 2008, or 20 years after the passage of the law.

Nieto said that under the rules and procedures, the status quo, that is, the stock distribution option in Luisita's case, would remain in effect until a court issues a final and executory judgment on the case.

If the DLR finds violations of the SDO agreement and decides to distribute the lands to farmers after scrapping the SDO, Hacienda Luisita would set a precedent for all haciendas whose farmers voted to get stocks instead of lands.

Nieto said that the hacienda, owned by the family of former President Aquino, would be automatically declared covered by CARP if the stock distribution option is junked by the court.

"I don't see any problem because we have covered their (the Cojuangcos') other properties before," he said.

Task Force Luisita started its investigation more than a year ago following complaints from Luisita farm workers that they had not been receiving dividends and that the management were using unfair labor practices.

Nieto said the compliance report he received from the Hacienda Luisita Inc. as of 2003 showed the farmers were receiving dividends from the HCI.

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2:00-4:00pm	Salient Features of the Proposed New VAT Law	Atty. Nelson Aspe
4:15-6:15pm	Ethical Issues in the Practice of Law	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
August 6, 2005, Saturday		
8:00-10:00am	International Concern over Intellectual Property Rights	Atty. Ferdinand M. Negre
10:15am-12:15nn	Recent Jurisprudence in Family Law Cases	Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
August 12, 2005, Friday		
2:00-4:00pm	Mediation	Atty. Carlos P. Medina
4:15-6:15pm	Recent Developments in Labor Law	Justice Vicente S.E. Veloso
August 13, 2005, Saturday		
8:00-10:00am	Appellate Remedies	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
10:15am-12:15nn	Tips on Case Analysis and Report Writing	Atty. Eugenio H. Villareal
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2:00-4:00pm	Gendered Implementation of the Anti-Rape Law	Atty. Amparita S. Sta. Maria
4:15-6:15pm	New Rules on Children	Atty. Sedfrey M. Candelaria
August 20, 2005, Saturday		
8:00-10:00am	Updates on Constitutional Law	Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.
10:15am-12:15nn	International Obligations and Their Influence on Domestic Laws	Atty. Sedfrey M. Candelaria
August 26, 2005, Friday		
2:00-4:00pm	Administrative, Civil and Criminal Liabilities of Lawyers	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
4:15-6:15pm	Special Problems in Succession	Atty. Ruben F. Balane
August 27, 2005, Saturday		
8:00-9:00am	Updates on Local Government & Local Autonomy	Atty. Alberto C. Agra
9:15am-12:15nn	Resolving Conflict of Jurisdiction in International Arbitration	Atty. Custodio O. Parlade
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MIRIAM AT IT AGAIN

'FVR a toothache lusting for power'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER President Fidel Ramos financed military destabilization threats against President Macapagal-Arroyo and then presented himself as her protector.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said it is even possible that Ramos was behind the wiretapping of the President's phone calls to election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that has led to the filing of an impeachment complaint against her.

"Mr. Ramos is master of great propaganda," Santiago told reporters. She even called him "a toothache."

"He is in fact, in my suspicion, spending money for the military to threaten President Macapagal-Arroyo for a coup d'etat or other uprising to unseat her and then he turns around and offers himself as law protector to President Arroyo so that he can ingratiate himself into her good graces and that way manipulate her as if he were some latter-day Rasputin. That's what he did to President Aquino," Santiago said.

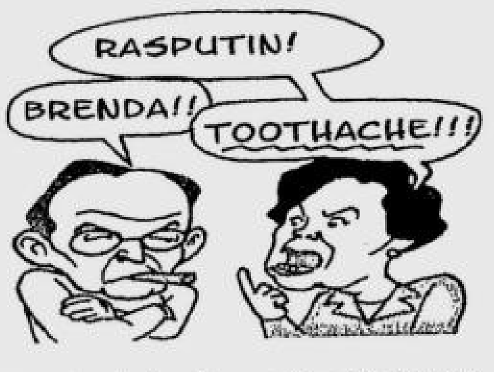
Asked for her basis in suspecting Ramos' hand in destabilization attempts, Santiago said: "Well, where else could the money be coming from? Simply by process of elimination. Who else could be giving money to these military people or ex-military people to threaten the presidency in the manner they have, so well-publicized in media."

Ramos has distanced himself from the anti-Arroyo activities of retired general Fortunato Abat, his former budget secretary Salvador Enriquez and other personalities associated with him who have called for Ms Arroyo's ouster and installation of a junta.

Asked if Ramos could have had a hand in the wiretapping, Santiago said: "That's possible because there is no end to the creativity of this man insofar as military-psychological warfare is concerned."

"This man is obsessed with power. He is a power luster. Some people lust for beauty, some people lust for sex but this man lusts for power," Santiago said.

In calling for a truth commission, Ms Arroyo said not only the charges against her should be investigated but the conspiracy to oust her.


RASPUTIN!
BRENDA!!
TOOTHACHE!!!

Santiago said Ms Arroyo was only accepting Ramos' profession of support for political reasons.

"The thing is, the President at this time will have to play addition instead of subtraction in politics. And so the more allies she has, the better for her position insofar as her survival is concerned and she simply cannot afford to alienate any prospective supporters, no matter where he is coming from," Santiago said.

Santiago said Ramos was so obsessed with power that he is mightily pushing for charter change.

"He wants to keep on amending the Constitution as if it were a toy for a big boy. But the Constitution is a sacrosant document, all freshmen law students know this. Maybe he should first enrol in first year college of law, preferably in UP," Santiago said.

Santiago described as an "imbecile proposal" Ramos' dare for officials to pass a measure barring him and other past presidents from occupying government positions.

Ramos did this to dispel suspicions he was pushing a shift to a new form of government so he could serve as prime minister.

"Only inactive brain cells can possibly dream of (this), (it's) just a totally inutile proposition," she said.

Santiago said Ramos had pushed for a people's initiative to amend the charter during his term but the Supreme Court struck this down because at that time Congress has yet to enact a law providing for people's initiative as a mode of effecting charter change.

Told that local officials are planning to initiate the people's initiative, Santiago said: "There we go! That is the Ramos thumbprint all over, not only his thumbprint—his toothmark. That man is a toothache."

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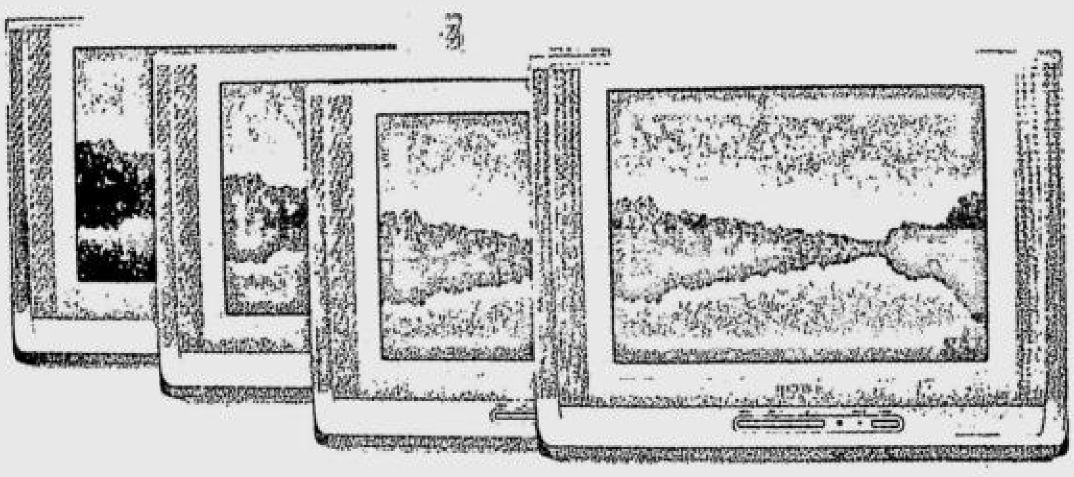

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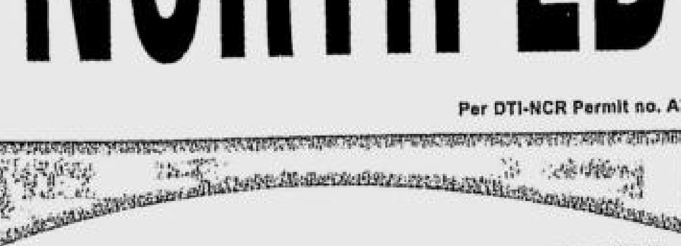
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Opposition solons vow 'tons of evidence' vs GMA

From page A1

Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said he expected the House of Representatives to vote on whether to impeach Ms Arroyo by early October.

At the same forum, Zamora and two of his opposition colleagues also warned Ms Arroyo's allies in the House against stacking the impeachment rules in her favor and killing the impeachment complaint on technical grounds.

Impeachment complaint

An amended impeachment complaint signed by 42 lawmakers was filed with the House on Monday and was immediately referred to the chamber's justice committee. Had the impeachment complaint been signed by 79 lawmakers—one-third of the 236-member House—the case would have been automatically sent to the Senate for trial.

The complaint accuses Ms Arroyo of violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust and corruption. Specific allegations include committing electoral fraud, receiving payoffs from "jueteng" lords, failing to declare ownership of various properties, violating human rights, and approving contracts disadvantageous to the government.

Ms Arroyo became embroiled in her worst political crisis following the disclosure of wiretapped phone conversations purportedly showing that she rigged the 2004 presidential election. She has apologized for talking to an election official before the results were announced, but denied manipulating the outcome.

OPPOSITION Representatives Francis Escudero (left) and Ronaldo Zamora are guests of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Wednesday. AFP

No holds barred

"I will guarantee you that there will be no holds barred," San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, leader of the impeachment team, told Focap members. "I guarantee you, she will suffer."

Zamora urged Ms Arroyo not to obstruct the process by pushing her House allies to stack impeachment rules in her favor, or delay the trial.

"But if she is really guilty, if she knows deep in her heart that she is hiding sordid secrets, if she is really sure that a trial will bring out these secrets into the open, then she should instruct her allies to delay as much as possible," he said.

The House is currently holding floor deliberations on a set of rules and procedures governing Ms Arroyo's impeachment. Only when the impeachment rules have been finalized may the House committee on justice—which is stacked with Ms Arroyo's allies—start deliberating on the impeachment complaint and evaluating evidence against the President.

Not bluffing

If the complaint wins the support of at least 79 lawmakers—one-third of the 236-member House—during floor deliberations on the committee report, only then would Ms Arroyo face trial by the 23-member Senate.

"We will come out with every sort of witness. We have a whole pile of documents to present, and that is not bluffing, that is the simple truth," Zamora told Focap members.

He said opposition lawmakers were seeking testimony from 10 former Cabinet and senior officials who recently abandoned Ms Arroyo.

A key piece of evidence in the impeachment process will be wiretaps allegedly of Ms Arroyo speaking to Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Zamora expressed confidence the purported conversations could be presented without violating the law against illegal wiretaps because they involved public officials discussing matters of public interest.

"We can guarantee we have a strong case," he said, adding the impeachment case would not just focus on the so-called "Gloriagate" tapes.

"We consider the tapes as mere reference materials. We have tons of evidence, we have witnesses to prove the President had committed wrongdoings in the elections," Zamora added.

Timetable

Zamora said he had discussed the impeachment schedule with Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, an Arroyo ally and chair of the justice committee.

The committee has 60 working days to weigh the merits of the complaint before it submits a report for floor deliberations and the entire House membership votes on whether to send it for a trial in the Senate.

Some analysts have speculated the committee would try to delay the process, but that carries the risk of giving the opposition more time to gather the necessary 79 votes to send the case straight to a Senate trial.

Zamora said the justice committee may begin hearing the complaints by September, weighing testimonies of witnesses and documentary evidence submitted by opposition lawmakers.

"We probably will get into a vote in the House of Representatives, which will be definitive of sending the complaint to the Senate or not by the first week of October," he said.

"Our position with regards to calling for the President to resign remains as the least painful, shortest way possible for us to overcome this particular crisis," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said at the Focap forum.

View of the people

Escudero appealed to pro-Arroyo majority legislators to approve impeachment rules that are "fair, acceptable, credible, not to the President, not to the complainant, but from the point of view of the people."

"Any acquittal on a technicality will never bring about closure to this issue," he said. "However, a conviction or acquittal based on the merits will to my mind be more acceptable to our people and is closer to bringing closure to this issue than anything else."

Rules, procedures

But Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said pro-Arroyo legislators were stacking the odds against impeachment by coming up with rules and procedures that it would be "almost impossible for a Congress to impeach the President of the Philippines."

Cayetano warned that if the impeachment failed because the rules favored Ms Arroyo, she would be "pushing our people to accept a more radical means of changing" leadership—a reference to massive street protests.

During floor debates on the rules on Tuesday night, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said Ms Arroyo could be summoned by the House at an early stage of the impeachment process. *Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters and Michael Lim Ubac*

GMA to form consultative body for changes in Charter

From page A1

mentary government within a federal system.

Ms Arroyo yesterday announced that she would form a consultative constitutional commission that will come up with proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution to make Congress' work easier.

Her proposal is a variation of former President Fidel Ramos' suggestion that a high commission be formed to speed up amendments to the Constitution.

'Graceful exit option'

Under the Ramos proposal, it is Congress that will form an independent body composed of leaders who would examine the political and economic situation and come up with prescriptions for the country's problems.

Ramos announced the proposal on July 7 as part of a "graceful exit option" for Ms Arroyo amid calls that she step down because she allegedly cheated in the presidential election last year.

His graceful exit option for Ms Arroyo also calls for a revision of the Constitution through a constituent assembly that will lead to a parliamentary form of government and new elections in May 2006.

Forty members

Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief, said the proposal was for the consultative constitutional commission to have as many as 40 members from the academe and civil society. The commission will include constitutional experts.

At a news conference in Malacañang, Ms Arroyo said she had asked Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to direct the Palace legal team to draft an administrative order that would create the commission.

Ms Arroyo said the commission would be formed as "soon as possible."

She named former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, a constitutional expert, as one of those she would ask to be a member of the commission.

"I am sure I am going to get him (Abueva) into that scene," the President told reporters.

To accept invitation

Abueva told the INQUIRER he would be "honored" to be part of the commission.

"We welcome the initiative of the President to create a citizen's advisory body," he said in a phone interview.

He said members of civil society, religious groups, the private sector and even local government executives should be represented in the commission.

Abueva, chair of the advisory board of the Citizen's Movement for a Federal Philippines (CMFP) and president of Kalayaan College, said his group had already prepared a draft constitution for a parliamentary Federal Republic of the Philippines.

"We already have draft revisions that are appropriate to (Philippine political) conditions, based on our history and our culture. (Our draft constitution) is not copied from other countries' constitutions. It is a Filipino constitution," Abueva said.

The draft constitution was published a month ago into a book titled "Charter Change for Good Governance: Towards a Federal Republic of the Philippines with a Parliamentary Government."

Abueva said the CMFP had been studying the benefits of federalism as early as 1999. "We are deeply committed to a federal and parliamentary form of government," he said.

Concon preferred

Abueva, however, said the CMFP preferred that a constitutional convention (Concon) and not a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) as proposed by Ms Arroyo should come up with a new constitution.

"But we recognize that it is the Congress that would decide whether it would be a Con-con, Con-Ass or a people's initiative that would change the Constitution," he said.

He, nonetheless, expressed the hope that the planned consultative commission would give civil society and local leaders an opportunity to take part in the planning of constitutional changes.

"This is because (what we would be changing) is the Constitution of all sectors in the entire country," Abueva said.

RP's own model

On its website, the CMFP believes that the type of federalism suited for the Philippines can be determined only through discussion, consultation and debate among Filipinos.

"The Philippines can develop its own unique model of federalism based on the various models that have been adopted by other countries," the website's question-and-answer portion showed.

Abueva begged off from mentioning other details of proposed constitutional changes, saying the commission has yet to be formed in the first place. He added that the position in the advisory council has yet to be offered to him.

He said his group's proposal came after studying the federal and parliamentary systems of various countries.

Say it flowers

In the Senate, Fr. Robert Reyes wants the senators to junk Ms Arroyo's proposed Charter change and proceed with her impeachment.

Taking a breather from his hunger strike, Reyes yesterday delivered his message to the 23 lawmakers right inside the Senate and said it with flowers, Malaysian peach mums in particular.

A darker, thinner Reyes positioned himself outside the session hall and handed out the peach mums to the amused senators on their way to the hall for their 3 p.m. session, briefly pressing flesh and exchanging pleasantries with them.

Each stem was tied up in a peach ribbon that bore the messages: "No to Cha-cha" and "Impeach her."

"It's good to get allies in the Senate right now," Reyes, who has lost 11 lb since he pitched a tent and started fasting at the People Power Monument on Edsa, told reporters.

He said impeachment proceedings might "fall by the wayside" if Charter change gains ground.

Diversionary ploy

So far, the proposed Charter change has run into a wall of opposition in the Senate. Most members of the Senate see this as a ploy to divert attention from the impeachment complaint.

"One thing at a time. Stick to the 'no Cha-cha' advocacy in the meantime," administration Sen. Juan Flavier, the first to arrive at the hall and receive the flowers, told Reyes in jest.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal was pleased not only with the flowers, but with the fact that the priest shared her stand on the current crisis.

"These are exactly my sentiments," she said in an interview. "I'm happy that Fr. Robert Reyes, together with civil society groups, is harnessing the middle forces to join the movement that has nothing to do with politics but has everything to do with the very survival of democracy in our country."

Unimpressed

Some, however, were unimpressed. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile ignored Reyes and walked straight into the session hall. Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, who was walking right behind Enrile, failed to notice the priest.

Reyes, however, said he would bring the flowers to the lawmakers' offices just the same.

Drilon, for his part, thanked the priest for his moral support. "Well, I would like to express my appreciation for Fr. Robert Reyes. In this difficult times, expression of support is very important," he said.

In the House of Representatives, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said presidential ambition was preventing senators from adopting proposals to amend the Constitution.

Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said many senators opposed Charter change because they wanted to run either for president or vice president in the 2010 elections. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Whiz kid visits PDI, to meet with GMA

From page A1

and radio programs and to be featured in several publications.

Yesterday, Adi dropped by the INQUIRER office in Makati City to say thank you for the support given him. It was the INQUIRER which first told the story of the little boy from Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, who started school at Grade I but dropped out as he already knew everything the teacher could teach.

Adi was accompanied by his parents and aunt/godmother Beng Maronilla who works in Makati City.

Love at first sight

On arriving in the INQUIRER office, Adi instantly fell in love with Guyito, the INQUIRER's carabao mascot. "What kind of animal is that?" he asked. Upstairs, Adi was amused when he saw bigger renditions of Guyitos and wanted to take them home.

"Why are there too many sizes? Maybe this is a farm?" he asked his Dad Adrian Sr. He made the baby Guyito kiss the big Guyito.

The INQUIRER people were totally taken by Adi who's such a cute tyke.

Thanks INQUIRER

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and board chair Marixi Prieto handed Adi a Guyito stuffed doll and he posed and talked with it.

"We're grateful to the INQUIRER and INQ-TV for being supportive to Adi," said Marynol, Adi's mother. She said the INQUIRER has helped raise the consciousness of the public about the conditions and needs of gifted children.

"I hope for an immediate and relevant program by the government for special children like Adi (not only those picked up by the media).

"We're overwhelmed at the warm welcome by the INQUIRER. We didn't expect this," said his godmother Beng.

Asked what he wanted to tell the INQUIRER people, Adi said, "Thank you!"

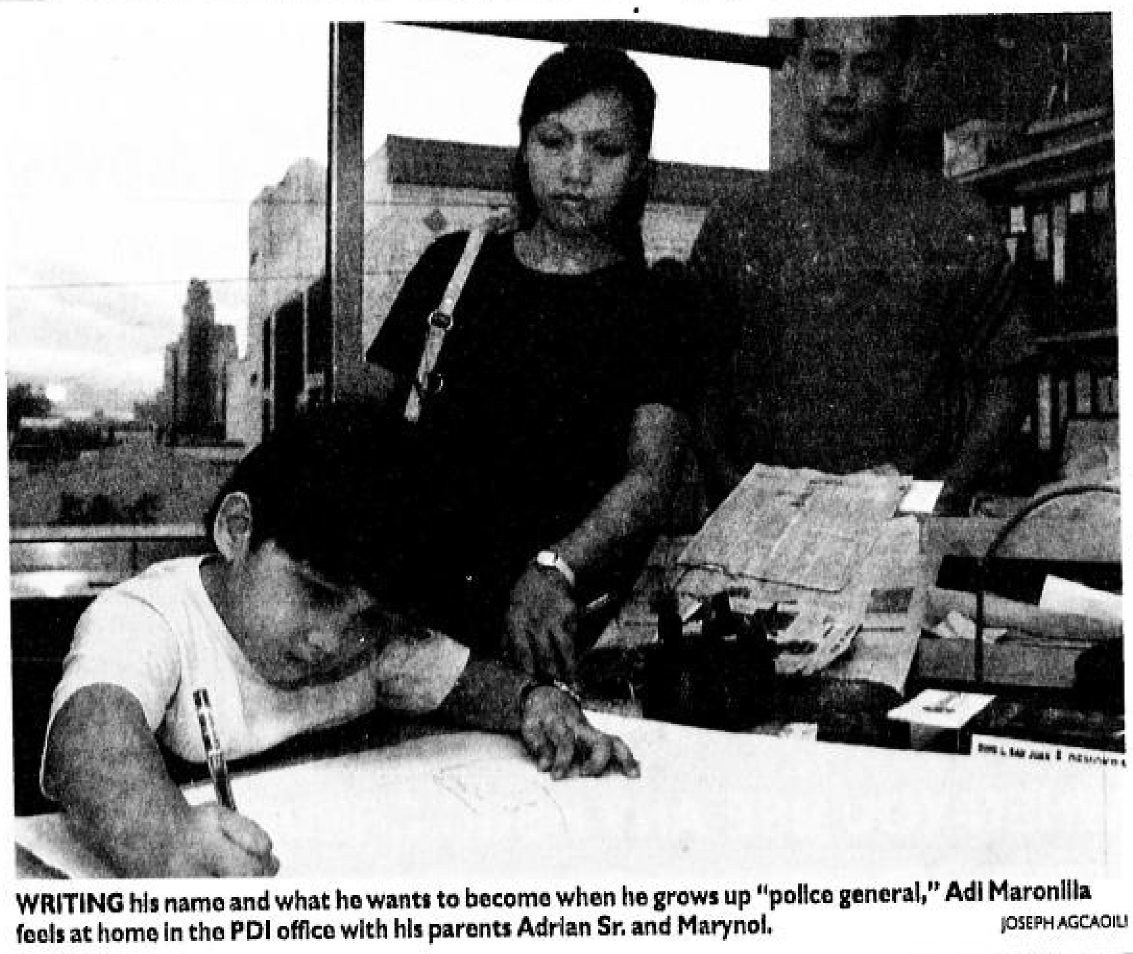
'Knock-knock'

Adi sat on the office chair of INQUIRER Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. He asked: "Who owns this room?"

He drew horses with colored pens and wrote his name in long hand.

He played knock-knock jokes, while reading his joke book with the editors. Someone asked for his autograph.

Just like a celebrity.



WRITING his name and what he wants to become when he grows up "police general," Adi Maronilla feels at home in the PDI office with his parents Adrian Sr. and Marynol. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Now, it's back to 'jueteng'; new witness to surface

A WITNESS has direct, personal knowledge of President Arroyo's involvement in electoral manipulation, Archbishop Oscar Cruz tells a news conference on Wednesday. Also present are Senate "jueteng" witnesses Boy Mayor and Sandra Cam. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

From page A1

described the allegation against election officials as "impossible" and "unbelievable."

Abalos said gathering all regional directors at that time would be difficult because they were busy with the preparations for the national elections.

"If it's really true, that news is very shaking," he told reporters, adding that he and the other Comelec commissioners would be calling for an inquiry into the matter.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Lilia Pineda, a former mayor of Ms Arroyo's hometown of Lubao and incumbent provincial board member. A source close to Pineda said she called up the official, who is in the United States, but did not get a reply. Pineda has been on leave for two weeks, the source said.

At a press conference in Intramuros, Manila, Cruz confirmed the new witness' account.

Cruz, head of the antijueteng group Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said another witness would surface to directly link the President to jueteng, a P13-billion-a-year industry.

"I would vouch for the direct and personal knowledge of at least two persons," he said.

Cruz said he initially had a total of 14 witnesses, five of whom had already been presented before the Senate investigation. He said he had excused some of them, considering that their knowledge of the numbers game had already been presented in the testimony of Cam and company.

Testimony in a week or two

Asked if jueteng money might have been used to help Ms Arroyo in the presidential election last year, the bishop replied: "Definitely, yes."

Also accused of receiving huge payoffs from jueteng operators are the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, son Juan Miguel Arroyo and brother-in-law Ignacio Arroyo.

Cam said the new witness would come out and testify against the President in "a week or two."

"Ask her when Lilia distributed (jueteng money) in front of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for each regional director of the Comelec," she said.

Cam told reporters that the witness was now staying in a safe house provided by Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng.

Cam said the witness was present in the hotel in Manila when the supposed payoff for the Comelec directors was made.

She couldn't say for what purpose the alleged payola was intended. But she said she was sure that it was "jueteng money," considering that it purportedly came from the Pinedas.

At the same press briefing, fellow witnesses Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor and Richard Garcia said Bong Pineda was known within jueteng circles as a big-time gambling lord.

Cam described Pineda's wife Lilia as a "kumare" (close friend) of Ms Arroyo.

Unclean hands

Cam said the fact the Ms Arroyo was present during the purported payoff suggested that her hands were not clean.

"It's common sense and I hope the President won't make a fool of all Filipinos," she said in Filipino. "The amount was just part of the jueteng money that (circulated) in the elections. It doesn't even include the ones used to purchase campaign materials."

Until yesterday's revelations, accusations against the President had been confined to speculations that she might have received campaign contributions in the form of jueteng money in the past.

She had denied receiving even a single centavo from jueteng.

Be a hero

Ferdinand Rafanan, Comelec National Capital Regional director, denied ever receiving any bribe money from jueteng operators although he acknowledged that there were rumors about payoffs to election officials.

"I heard about it after the elections. I have no evidence [to prove it]. I wish such charges could be proven," Rafanan said.

He dared regional directors, who accepted the bribes, to come out in the open and "be a hero" so that Comelec's bad eggs would be exposed and purged.

Jesus I. Santos, spokesperson of the First Gentleman, scored Cruz and Cam for failing to provide acceptable evidence to bolster their claim that the First Family was involved in jueteng.

Where's evidence?

"Archbishop Cruz claims he has 14 new witnesses. Sandra Cam claims knowledge that the President used jueteng money in the elections. My question to them is simple: Why did they not present these witnesses and her new charges during the previous seven Senate hearings? Better yet, why have they totally failed to substantiate their accusations?" Santos said in a statement.

"IMPOSSIBLE," unbelievable, says Comelec Chair Abalos. ERIK ARAZAS

Cruz and his three witnesses lambasted the President for allegedly doing nothing to eliminate the underground lottery system, a key part of the scandals rocking her administration.

"I accuse the GMA administration of either incompetence or downright unwillingness to eradicate jueteng in the country. And I ask why?" the bishop said.

Garcia, a confessed former bagman, said jueteng and versions of it were back in at least 14 areas nationwide despite the recent widespread media coverage devoted to the scandal.

"If she's really serious about stopping it, it will stop effective today," he told reporters, referring to Ms Arroyo. "In one click, jueteng will stop."

Jueteng operations are back in provinces like Quezon, Batangas, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Tarlac, Bataan, Davao, General Santos, Cotabato, Bacolod and Cebu, according to Garcia. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Tonette Orejas*

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Raul vs Satur: DOJ seeks probe of party-list pork

GONZALEZ: Militants spent P200,000 on a single effigy.

BONCODIN: DBM prioritized fund release to leftist lawmakers, says Gonzalez.

OCAMPO: He's gone mad. He should see a psychiatrist.

From page A1

medicine supplies.

"We are assuming that there is misappropriation. *Kung wala naman, wala* (if there is none, there is none)," he said of the need for the COA to look into his allegation.

'He's mad'

"(Gonzalez) has gone mad. I'm afraid he should see a psychiatrist," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday told journalists at the House of Representatives.

"If Gonzalez has proof, he should file appropriate charges instead of going around town besmirching my name and the good reputation of Bayan Muna. He seems to forget that he is the secretary of justice and not the head of Malacañang's dirty tricks department," Ocampo said.

According to Gonzalez, the party-list representatives' PDAF shares might have been used to defray the costs of mounting anti-Arroyo rallies, including effigies worth hundreds of thousands of pesos, huge colorful banners, food and drinks, and rentals of jeepneys and buses to bring protesters from the provinces to Metro Manila.

But he admitted that it would be "difficult to prove" that the party-list congressmen had used the money to finance the rallies.

Millions in tranches

The secretary rattled off the names of several congressmen and the amount of PDAF released to them in tranches by the DBM recently. He refused to show the DBM list to reporters.

He said Ocampo's pork barrel funds were released in tranches of P2.2 million, P4 million, P4 million, P5.3 million, P2.1 million, P317,000, P200,000, P800,000, P500,000 and P500,000.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales received P10.3 million and, later, P500,000 and P15 million, while Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño got tranches of P493,000, P2.6 million, P5.9 million, P4.7 million, P835,000, P3250,000, P200,000 and P200,000, he said.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza allegedly got tranches of P5 million, P10 million, P2.5 million and P12.5 million; and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, P5 million, P10 million, P12.5 million, P4.5 million and P4.4 million.

Ocampo said Gonzalez's insinuation that he received P10 million from former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, ostensibly to fund anti-Arroyo rallies, was "absolutely baseless and malicious.'"

Pro-Arroyo rally

Boncodin was one of the "Hyatt 10" who resigned from the Arroyo Cabinet on July 8.

Ocampo's allies also turned the tables on the administration and said it should account for the government's expenses in the pro-Arroyo rally at the Luneta two weeks ago and for the travel expenses of local government executives who trooped to Manila to express support for the President.

"Amidst million-peso bribery allegations in Congress, we believe that it is Ms Arroyo who has to account for their expenses. They are the ones who have a lot of explaining to do," Maza said in a statement.

For his part, Mariano said Gonzalez's accusation "smacks of political arrogance against the people who voluntarily went to the streets to express their collective disgust against Ms Arroyo."

Ocampo said Gonzalez could seek an appointment with Bayan Muna's chair, psychiatrist Reynaldo Lesaca Jr., at the National Kidney Transplant Institute. "Maybe he (Lesaca) could help him, free of charge."

Earlier, Gonzalez claimed that Ocampo, who bolted the administration coalition in the House along with five other leftist lawmakers last week, received P10 million and implied that the money was used for the rallies, particularly the anti-Sona rally.

No releases

Ocampo denied receiving his allocations for this year, adding that there was still a backlog for 2004. "That is why I'm asking him (Gonzalez) to produce his proof. Being a lawyer and the secretary of justice, he should have evidence before he can say those things. But I don't know how he can substantiate such allegations," he said.

"He said his son did not get funds, but I also didn't get mine. If he insists that the funds were released, then who is holding them up? I think we're the victims here but it is made to appear that we are the bad guys," Ocampo said.

He stressed that his allocations went to his priority projects, including school buildings, medical clinics and farm-to-market roads.

While acknowledging that the legislators were entitled to the funds, Gonzalez said he was questioning their bigger allocations and the priority given by the DBM in releasing the funds to them.

"Where do they get the money to finance a gathering of 25,000 people at the University of the Philippines?" he asked, referring to the opposition rally on Monday when the President delivered her State of the Nation Address at the nearby Batasang Pambansa building in Quezon City.

Fund channels

"I don't know where they put the money. On my part, I course it through the local government units," said Gonzalez, who served three terms as congressman of Iloilo. The post is now held by his son.

He challenged the legislators to prove his figures wrong, saying that it was not madness to make a statement of fact.

Ocampo said that Gonzalez, being a former congressman, should have known that the DBM directly disbursed the pork barrel funds to government agencies that would implement the lawmakers' projects.

"What he said was an outright distortion. Secretary Gonzalez knows better than that. He is very well aware, as a former lawmaker and deputy speaker, that no actual cash goes to the hands of congressmen since the money is disbursed by the DBM to the government agency," he said.

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Erap wants to get out to prepare for his defense

From page A1

prepare his testimony when he takes the witness stand, lawyer Rene Saguisag wrote in a motion.

Saguisag said the unresolved "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy and its implications on telephone conversations had denied Estrada and his legal counsels "the liberating effect of casual and free conversation."

2-hour drive from Manila

Estrada is currently on "rest house arrest" in his own property adjacent to the military's Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

The Estrada estate is a good two-hour drive to and from Metro Manila.

"The defense panel is a team of busy people, not all of whom are all young and energetic. It is not easy to go to and from Tanay. It is humbly submitted that while the team prepares to present the principal accused for his extended testimony, it would better serve the ends of justice if he is allowed bail," Saguisag said.

"(At his Polk Street residence), the defense panel can conveniently visit him without neglecting their many obligations in other cases, and law-related activities," Saguisag added.

"The principal accused must be given the freedom to move around and meet with people and access documents that can maximize the presentation of the strongest possible defense in this lethal injection case," Saguisag further said in the motion.

He said the only way the defense panel could efficiently prepare Estrada for his testimony in his own trial was to have the former President stay at his home on Polk Street, North Greenhills, San Juan.

Too late

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, however, said that granting bail to Estrada would be too late at this stage of the trial.

He added that the prosecution would have a better reason to strongly oppose the move after the court ruled on the sufficiency of its evidence against the deposed leader.

ESTRADA: Freedom to talk freely.

"Always, the petition for bail is anchored on the inability of the prosecution to present sufficient evidence to support the charge. But the court had denied the demurrer to evidence and ruled that we have sufficient evidence. It's too late in the day," Villa-Ignacio said.

Precedent

With the Sandiganbayan throwing out the defense motion to dismiss the case, the defense cited a precedent in the 1950s when the Supreme Court granted bail to Sen. Justiniano Montano who was accused of kidnapping and multiple murders, also offenses that exclude bail.

The Supreme Court overturned the decision of a lower court and granted bail to Montano.

Despite the strong probability of guilt, the high court ruled that Montano's position as senator and his standing in society made the possibility of his escape quite remote.

Saguisag said the Sandiganbayan may apply the case of Montano to Estrada.

Lawyer files ethics raps vs Gordon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FRANK Chavez, lawyer of "jueteng" witness Sandra Cam, has asked the Senate ethics committee to investigate and penalize Sen. Richard Gordon for violating the rights of his client in the Senate jueteng hearings.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon immediately rejected Chavez's request, saying Gordon was within his rights to question the credibility of Cam or any other witness testifying in the Senate.

Chavez wrote to Senators Manuel Villar and Lito Lapid, chair of the public order and games and amusement committees respectively, asking that Gordon be investigated by the ethics committee for "gross, grave and glaring violation" of the rights of Cam. But Chavez did not file his request with the ethics committee.

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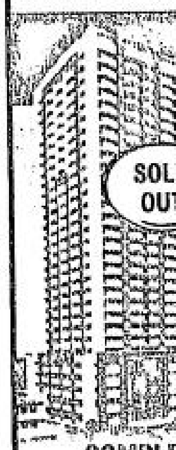

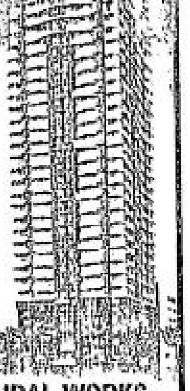

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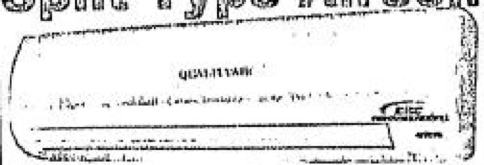

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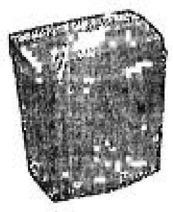

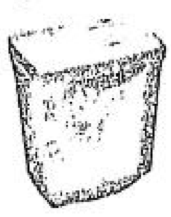

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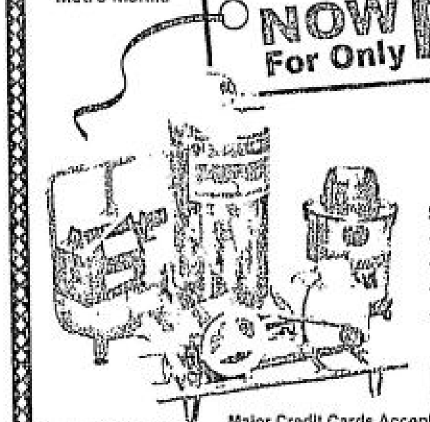

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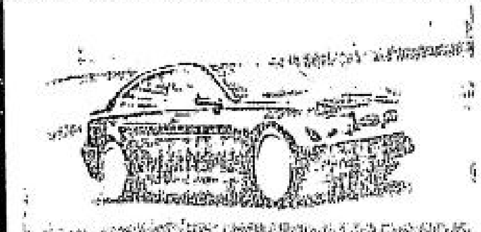

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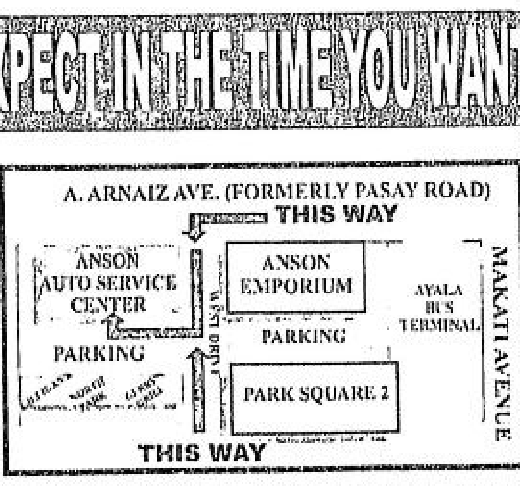

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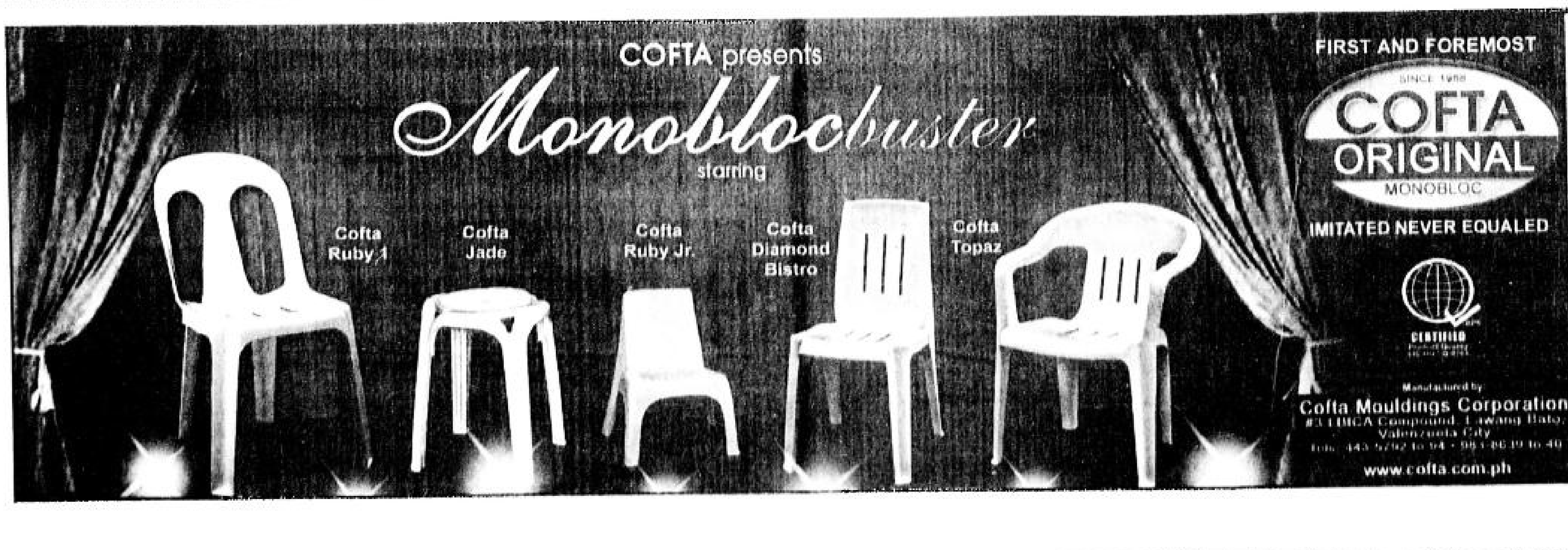

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Let Gloria run for prime minister, says FVR

KUALA LUMPUR—Former President Fidel V. Ramos said Wednesday that embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo should be allowed to run for prime minister under the new parliamentary system she has proposed.

"She should be allowed to run because for now she is innocent of any of the charges until proven otherwise," he told reporters during a visit to Malaysia.

However, the influential retired general conceded that support for the constitutional reforms which he has championed for decades is currently running well below the two-thirds vote required in the upper house or Senate.

"The numbers in the (lower) House are there already. In the Senate, not yet," he said.

Just five senators were on board from the 24-seat Senate, which currently has one vacancy, but there were "fence sitters" among the remainder and in time the changes would be enacted, he said.

"Eventually. We are not looking at next week or two weeks from now or within the month ... It's a step by step thing." In a State of the Nation Address on Monday, Ms Arroyo outlined a plan to draft a new constitution, scrap the US-style presidential system, and create a parliament to end recurrent political instability in the country.

Timeline of FVR's Proposed Constitutional Reforms
Citizen Ramos stresses the need to change the system of government!
REUTERS

FORMER President Fidel Ramos reiterates his position in Kuala Lumpur on the ongoing political crisis back home during a media conference on his arrival at the Malaysian capital. AP

Ramos has said the proposal would be a face-saving way for Ms Arroyo to leave office amid a political crisis sparked by allegations of vote-rigging in last year's national elections.

Under Ramos' timetable for reforms, his close ally Ms Arroyo could make way for a prime minister by June next year rather than 2010 when her six-year term expires.

But he said Wednesday it was still unclear whether Ms Arroyo was willing to adhere to the timetable and cut short her term.

"Some of us have indicated that there is a proposal which will provide everybody new momentum by the 30th of June 2006," he said.

"As to whether she is willing to do that, well, we don't know yet but she seemed very eager to have parliamentary and constitutional reforms because of her State of the Nation Address three days ago." He said there was growing political support among Filipinos for the move to scrap the US-style presidential system, which has been blamed for worsening many of the Philippines' problems such as Muslim separatism in the south.

"Public opinion is building up for the parliamentary system, especially outside of Metro Manila," he said.

The 77-year-old Ramos ruled out running for prime minister himself and said he had challenged Congress to pass a law prohibiting past presidents from running under an amended constitution.

"That is how committed I am to remaining a private citizen," he said.

Ramos said that although the opposition did not have the numbers to oust Ms Arroyo, they were trying to persuade more lawmakers to come on board.

"The opposition does not have the numbers amounting to 79 which is one-third of the Lower House. So they have quite a way to go," he said.

Ramos has played a crucial role in politics since 1986 when he helped topple dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and later served as defense secretary of Marcos' successor, Corazon Aquino.

He succeeded Aquino as president in 1992, and was credited with restoring stability and economic growth.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the president is limited to just one six-year term. Ramos said he believed the term was too short and that the presidential system was wrong for the Philippines.

The former general still commands respect domestically and internationally. However, leftist politicians believe he is pushing his own agenda to take over as prime minister.

Ramos has so far declined to add his voice to calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation since the scandal erupted last month. It centers on audiotapes of a wiretap in which a voice like hers tells a supposed election official to rig the election.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for improperly calling an election official during the vote tally but has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to stay in office. *AFP*

Palace move likened to a Queen's gambit

By Norman Bordadora

A POLITICAL analyst has likened President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal for constitutional change in her State of the Nation Address to a Queen's gambit with little risk and immediate gains on top of the ultimate prize—a parliament still controlled by the incumbent ruling coalition.

Antonio Tujan, research director of the think tank Ibon Foundation, said on Tuesday Ms Arroyo's pitch for Congress to convene into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to amend the Constitution could be seen as a strong countermove to the opposition's impeachment complaint against her.

But two experts on the Constitution expressed doubts that Charter change was the answer to the problems of the country in the interim.

One called it an attempt to cover up the President's questioned legitimacy and integrity, while the other questioned the motives behind such a proposal.

Offensive move

"Con-Ass is (the administration's) offensive move. It makes it difficult for the impeachment process (to make headway in the House of Representatives especially with the insufficient number of signatures for immediate transmission to the Senate," Tujan said.

Tujan said that if the Con-Ass convened "soon" as Ms Arroyo suggested in her Sona, attention would be deflected from the serious allegations of electoral fraud and corruption contained in the opposition's impeachment complaint.

"And if they succeed and come up with a parliamentary government, it would favor the administration rather than the opposition since the ruling coalition has a longer history and is more experienced in coalition building," Tujan added.

In a parliamentary setting, the prime minister as head of state is chosen from among the members of parliament and the coalition with more parties will most likely control the joint executive and legislative body.

"The gambit shall be completed," Tujan said.

Answer raps first

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, said the President should first address the allegations of electoral fraud and corruption against her before pushing for constitutional changes.

"The Constitution is very much dependent on the people running it," Bernas told the INQUIRER.

He said a new Constitution being implemented by politicians, who have yet to gain the people's trust and confidence, will continue to have problems.

Bernas said the serious allegations against the President should first be resolved but "she avoided tackling the corruption and electoral problems (in her Sona)."

A cover-up

"I think there is truth to the presumption that (the move for Charter change) is an escape. even a cover-up," Bernas said.

Lawyer Christian Monsod, former Commission on Elections chair and himself a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, said the administration should be made to explain further why it thinks constitutional amendments are needed at this time.

"Up to May 2005, she said the economy was good. She was even pushing for constitutional convention, which would take longer. Now, what made her change her mind?" Monsod said.

"Is it because the political situation is not going her way? Are we again (going to propose changes to the Constitution) to address a contemporary problem?" he added.

Monsod said that as early as 1989 when the bloodiest coup was launched against the Aquino administration, constitutional changes were already being brought up to address the perceived need to change leaders immediately and yet still in accordance with the Constitution.

He, however, said that following the implementation of the Davide Commission's recommendations to solve the recurrence of coups—values classes at the Philippine Military Academy, among them—there were no more coup tries such as those attempted from 1986 to 1989.

"You'd raise (the) Oakwood (mutiny), that was nothing," Monsod said.

FVR experience

Monsod also made mention of the Ramos administration call for constitutional amendments, a campaign that later collapsed because of public suspicion that he would use the exercise to do away with the term limits on incumbent officials.

"There was no need for constitutional change at that time. The economy was doing well until 1997 when the Asian financial crisis struck," Monsod said.

Then President Joseph Estrada also called for constitutional changes to provisions that were deemed obstacles to economic growth.

"He (Estrada) said the Charter change would only be for (economic policies). He didn't have problems politically. He was elected by an overwhelming majority," Monsod said.

GMA: We have an economy to run

From page A1

spond directly to questions on her feelings about Aquino and the Hyatt 10, obviously following the advice of her image consultants led by Asian Development Bank alternate director Marita Jimenez who wanted to present a friendlier and gentler leader.

Who's good and bad

She also made it a point to spell out who was the good guy and the bad guy. True to the image makeover meant to lift her rock-bottom popularity ratings, the President refused to confront her critics.

"I am not answering back because they have already cornered all the negativism. I have to move on and we have an economy to run," she said.

"All I'm saying is that I have a clear plan for the country while they are only joining hands to bring me down."

In contrast to the aggressive stance taken by her loyal, if tactless, defenders, notably Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo was conciliatory.

"I never hit back or make a personal attack against the opposition. I kept my peace because I believe that everybody should hear about what's good for the country. But I will still continue to reach out ... so that we can have principled reconciliation with everybody," she said.

On the public's pervasive skepticism of her efforts to put behind the scandals hounding her, Ms Arroyo said: "That is part of what they say is mistrust in our institutions. It has come to a point that everything I do is always suspect. That is precisely a symptom that we really have to change."

Collateral damage

Despite the prevailing view that her stay in office would disastrously put the country in a prolonged stalemate, the President said: "I hope while there are differences in opinion on how to promote the good of the country, we should have an agreement to cut this down while the collateral damage to the economy is still bearable."

"Our country will continuously have crisis until we have changed the system," Ms Arroyo said. "This system over the years has been deteriorating, so this is the result. So we have to make a fundamental change in the system."

Taking a business-as-usual stance, Ms Arroyo said economic reforms would continue.

"We've already completed the most difficult phase. But the most difficult challenge is political reform. The nation has been divided. We're poised to fly if we would only stop weighing down our wings with the burdens of our own making," said Ms Arroyo.

Truth commission

Referring to the "truth commission," she said consultations were continuing and her legal staff was still drafting an executive order that would establish the panel.

Ms Arroyo said the commission would not only look into allegations contained in the wiretapped telephone conversation purporting to show she rigged last year's election but also the conspiracy to unseat her behind the claims. The President has adamantly denied manipulating the balloting.

Yesterday, Presidential Management Staff head Rigoberto Tiglao said the Palace was preparing a draft executive order as well as a bill that seeks to ask Congress to legislate the creation of the independent body tasked to investigate the allegations.

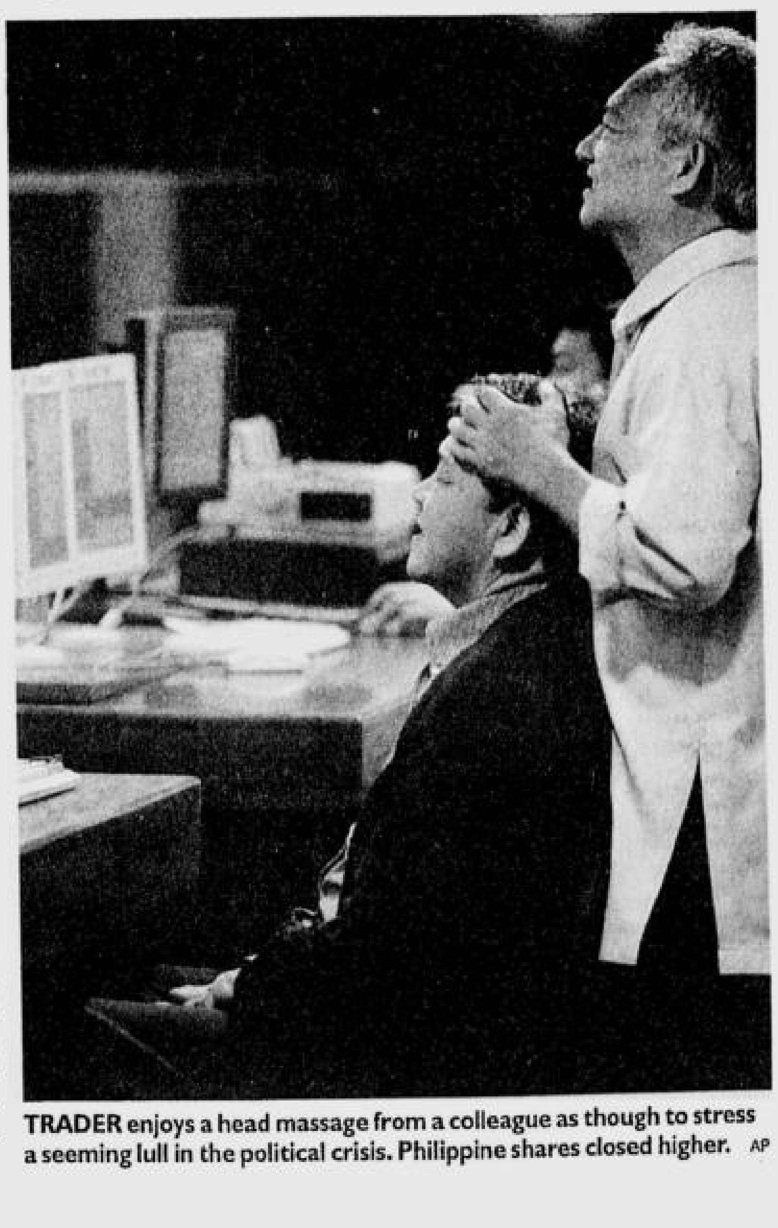
Jewel in the family

The President was effusive in her praise of her 34-year-old daughter, Luli, who had come out of her shell to defend her mother after her father and eldest brother left for the US on voluntary exile after being implicated in illegal gambling payoffs.

"She's our only daughter. She's the jewel in the family. She's a good role model for the youth. She's very principled. She's very humble. She's very hardworking. She's a very private person. I appreciate her speaking to the public sometimes so that the public could understand our family.

"I also thank God for giving my children the maturity that they were able to withstand all the political intrigues," the President said.

Ms Arroyo also invoked another family member in defending her actions, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. "My father used to tell me that if I become President that I should be ready to sacrifice," she said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, AP, Reuters*



TRADER enjoys a head massage from a colleague as though to stress a seeming lull in the political crisis. Philippine shares closed higher. AP

Palace media blitz backfires

From page A1

maximum exposure both locally and internationally," said Wilson.

The much-anticipated occasion turned out to be a farce.

Bunye strictly limited the questioning to 10 pre-selected reporters covering the Malacañang beat and inexplicably left out the country's major media facilities, including ABS-CBN 2, GMA 7, ABC 5 TV stations and the INQUIRER.

He said the President was on a tight schedule. Interestingly, the President spent at least 10 minutes after the briefing posing with members of the Malacañang Press Corps for the cameras.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines immediately condemned Malacañang's use of the media in a propaganda stunt.

"Considering this was the first press conference after weeks of holing up with loyalists, and considering that Mrs. Arroyo's aides had made a big thing of the Chief Executive finally facing media, Malacañang's sudden penchant for exclusive affairs seems very strange. This was not a cozy private dinner with the President. This was a press briefing," said the NUJP in a statement.

Reporters covering Malacañang were hoodwinked. They thought that like in previous media interactions, the President could be questioned freely.

Press Undersecretary Isabel de Leon innocently approached each member of the Malacañang Press Corps at 1 p.m. Tuesday with a cue card asking them to write down pronto their questions or topics they want to discuss within the hour.

Friendly media

So, it came as a big surprise that only reporters from friendly media entities, according to the NUJP, were allowed to query the President.

Bunye made the announcement only when all of the reporters were seated and the TV cameras positioned at the Ceremonial Hall—too late for them to get out of the hall in protest.

"We would have been better off watching it on TV," said Rey Mercaral of dzXL radio.

Bunye did not explain why he dropped the usual practice of raffling off the few slots for questioners among reporters to avoid charges of favoritism or media manipulation.

Most of the reporters who were not allowed to participate felt they were only used as "props" in a Malacañang effort to show a President undaunted by a hostile press.

"This is unfair, why are you not allowing us to ask our questions?" said one reporter. Bunye merely signaled with his hands that there was not enough time.

How to handle this?

Hearing the question, Ms Arroyo asked Bunye, "How are you going to handle this?"

The NUJP warned that this incident had driven a "bigger wedge" between Ms Arroyo and the media.

"Operating on an under siege mode does not advance the cause of unity President Arroyo purports to champion. The Palace's treatment of media is indicative of the administration's attitude toward the general public," the NUJP said.

"There is a clear effort to evade more critical segments of society to shield the Chief Executive from the less palpable aspects of leadership. The President and her men are asking Filipinos to put their trust in her leadership yet they seem incapable of trusting the public."

Among the unanswered questions were: Is the President willing to abide by the Congress' decision to cut her term in office, and whether it was former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on the other end of the phone. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AP*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN OKs measures halting use of child soldiers

UNITED NATIONS—After months of wrangling, the UN Security Council unanimously approved a package of measures Tuesday aimed at halting the use of child soldiers and exploitation of youngsters in war zones by governments and insurgent groups.

The resolution reaffirms the council's intention to consider imposing targeted sanctions such as arms embargoes, travel bans and financial restrictions against parties that continue violating international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict.

Olara Otunnu, the UN special representative for children and armed conflict, called it "a truly historic development" that will streamline global efforts to prevent the victimization of young people in war zones.

"It is for the first time saying it is not enough to condemn," he said. "We must actually move and ensure accountability. It isn't enough to have rules and standards and resolutions and conventions. We must set up in place a system that can deliver on compliance."

Under the resolution, the council for the first time established a regime to report on the killing, maiming, rape and sexual abuse of children in conflicts, the recruiting and use of child soldiers, the abduction of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

According to the United Nations, in the last decade two million children have been killed in situations of armed conflict and six million have been injured. Over 250,000 child soldiers are currently being exploited around the globe, down from about 350,000 a few years ago — but abductions of youngsters are increasing in Sudan's Darfur region, northern Uganda, Nepal and Burundi.

The council also endorsed the continued public naming and listing of all governments and insurgent groups responsible for grave violations against children. Secretary General Kofi Annan's latest report in February lists 54 parties in 11 conflicts in Colombia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Nepal, Uganda, Burma, Congo, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Somalia and the Philippines.

The resolution establishes UN-led task forces, ultimately covering all conflict situations, to monitor and report on violations against children.

The council directed UN peacekeeping missions and UN country teams to enter into immediate talks with the 54 parties cited in Annan's report to prepare and implement action plans to end the violations.

If the governments and insurgent groups fail to end the violations, the Security Council said it will then consider targeted measures including sanctions.

Other bodies may also take action against offending parties including the General Assembly, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the International Criminal Court, regional organizations and national governments.

The UN effort to tackle the problem of children in armed conflict began with a 1996 report by the UN Children's Fund challenging the belief that the use of child soldiers was a regrettable but inevitable part of war. In February, Annan issued a report including a plan to monitor and report abuses against children and punish violators.

The Security Council started considering a resolution based on Annan's report in late February. But diplomats said approval was held up by concerns that the resolution might be targeting certain countries and possibly interfering in their internal affairs. *AP*

UK police nab 4 suspected bombers

LONDON—Police arrested four men in central England early on Wednesday in connection with last week's failed bomb attacks on London, and media reports said one of the suspected bombers was among those held.

London's Metropolitan police would not comment on whether a bomber had been captured, but said one of the four men arrested in the city of Birmingham was en route to the capital for questioning at a high security detention center.

Police sources told Reuters that man—detained in the Hay Mills area of Britain's second-biggest city—was the most significant arrest. The BBC and Sky television said he was a suspected bomber.

The botched bombings on July 21 occurred exactly two weeks after four suicide bombers killed 52 people in a similar attack on London's transport system. Police have linked the suicide bombers to al-Qaida.

Police used a taser stun gun on the most significant suspect and a suspect package was discovered at the address, a police spokesperson said.

"The man was tasered during the operation although no firearms were discharged," she said.

A small area around the house was evacuated and a controlled explosion on the suspect package was to be carried out.

The three other men were detained at another address and taken to a West Midlands police station. All of the arrests were made under antiterrorism laws. Forensic investigations were being carried out at both addresses.

Police also arrested two men at a train station in the central town of Grantham as they traveled from the northern city of Newcastle towards London's King's Cross.

The men were arrested late on Tuesday after a tip-off from off-duty police officers.

London police declined to comment on whether the arrests were connected with the arrests of four men in Birmingham.

Police have published photographs of the four main suspects in the July 21 attempted attacks from images captured on security cameras.

Police chief Ian Blair said on Tuesday the investigation into the failed attempt to bomb London's transport network was moving at an "astonishing" pace but warned that the fugitive bombers could strike again.

"They are capable of killing again," Blair told Channel 4 News television on Tuesday. "We must find them. We are flat out and we are getting a great deal of intelligence." Newspapers reported on Wednesday that a prime suspect wanted for last week's attempted London bombings had served a jail sentence for knifepoint robberies and grew to hate the British system after his conviction.

Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27, wanted over an attempt to plant a bomb on a bus in last week's failed attacks, was jailed for 5 years in 1996 for mugging people when he was part of a teenage gang, the Daily Telegraph said.

The Sun tabloid said Ibrahim arrived in Britain from the East African country of Eritrea in 1992.

Newspapers said Ibrahim and another of the four suspected bombers came to Britain as child refugees from East Africa and had received state welfare payments.

The Home Office (interior ministry) and police declined to comment on the reports.

On Tuesday, police said they had found possible material for making explosives at a flat in north London linked to one of four suspects.

Police were checking comments by a neighbor that at least one of the suspects may have returned to the flat in north London the day after the attempted bombings.

"I spotted them on Friday afternoon," Tanya Wright told the Sun. "When they spotted me, they turned pale as if they had seen a ghost. I was with my Alsatian (dog). I guess they must have thought I was a policewoman." A police source, who declined to be identified, said the information could be "extremely interesting" but that officers had not yet confirmed the report. *Reuters*

July 7 bombers may have been duped into dying

LONDON—Within hours of the July 7 attacks here, many British police and intelligence officials assumed that the four bombers had intended to die with their bombs.

But in recent days, some police officials are increasingly considering the possibility that the men did not plan to commit suicide and were duped into dying.

Investigators raising doubts about the suicide assumption have cited plenty of evidence to support the theory. Each of the four men who died in the July 7 attacks purchased round-trip railway tickets from Luton to London. Germaine Lindsay's rented car left in Luton had a seven-day parking sticker on the dashboard. A large quantity of explosives were stored in the trunk of that car, perhaps for another attack. Another bomber had just spent a large sum to repair his car. The men carried drivers' licenses and other ID cards with them to their deaths, unusual for suicide bombers. In addition, none left behind a note, videotape or Internet trail as suicide bombers have done in the past. And the bombers' families were baffled by what seemed to be their decisions to kill themselves.

While some of these clues could be seen as the work of men intent on covering their trail, some investigators increasingly believe that the men may have conned into carrying the bombs onto the trains and leaving them, thinking they were going to explode minutes later.

There remains some evidence suggesting that these were suicide bombers, beyond the fact that all died in the blasts. Their bodies, all of which were recovered, were positioned in a way that led investigators to make a preliminary determination that these may have been suicide attacks. *New York Times*

SPACE shuttle Discovery takes off from pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida July 26. REUTERS

Nasa returns to space after lull of 2 1/2 years

CAPE CANAVERAL—America's manned space program roared back to life with the launch of Discovery, and engineers immediately began analyzing video of falling debris in hopes of ruling out a problem like the one that doomed Columbia two and a half years ago.

National pride and the future of space exploration itself hung in the balance as Discovery and its crew of seven rose from the launch pad at 10:39 a.m. (1439 GMT) Tuesday into a hazy blue sky and headed out over the ocean in the most scrutinized launch in Nasa history and the first shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster.

The scrutiny didn't end once the shuttle reached orbit.

Astronauts awoke for their first full day of work in space Wednesday with plans to inspect the shuttle's wings and nose for damage using a camera attached to the spacecraft's arm. The carefully orchestrated maneuvers were expected to take about seven hours.

Nasa Administrator Michael Griffin urged everyone "to take note of what you saw here today: the power and the majesty of the launch, of course, but also the competence and the professionalism, the sheer gall, the pluckiness, the grittiness of this team that pulled this program out of the depths of despair 2 1/2 years ago and made it fly."

Nevertheless, Griffin and other Nasa officials said they will not celebrate until Discovery comes home safely. Columbia, after all, seemed to be home free until it fell to pieces on its return to Earth.

Two chase planes and more than 100 cameras documented Discovery's ascent from every possible angle to capture any sign of flying debris, and hours after the shuttle had settled into orbit, Nasa officials said an object that may have been a 3.8-cm piece of thermal tile appeared to break off from the Discovery's belly during liftoff. It came off from a particularly vulnerable spot, near the doors to the compartment containing the nose landing gear.

Also, a large object—perhaps a piece of foam insulation—seemed to fly off from the giant external fuel tank but did not hit the shuttle itself, Nasa flight operations manager John Shannon said.

"The big question is, what is that?" Shannon said.

He said it is too early to say whether the two incidents pose any danger to the shuttle. *AP*

Clamor for Suu Kyi's release mounts

VIENTIANE—Friends and critics of military-ruled Burma (Myanmar) on Wednesday welcomed its decision to skip the chairmanship of Southeast Asia's bloc next year but warned it must get serious about establishing democracy and free Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Burma's surprise decision grabbed all the attention this week at the annual get-together of foreign ministers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos. The six-day conference ends Friday after the ministers hold their annual security-oriented Asean Regional Forum with 14 Western and Asian counterparts.

By agreeing Tuesday to forgo the chairmanship, Burma gave Asean breathing space in its confrontation with the United States and European Union over the junta's failure to bring democracy.

Washington and the European Union had threatened to boycott Asean meetings unless Burma either released Suu Kyi from house arrest or forfeited its turn to claim the bloc's rotating chairmanship. Most of Burma's Asean neighbors had feared damage to their trade ties with the West.

But skipping the chairmanship doesn't solve Burma's problem, said US state department spokesperson Sean McCormack in Washington, noting that it remains far from its stated goal of democracy. He renewed US calls for Suu Kyi to be released "immediately and unconditionally."

"Arrests of pro-democracy supporters continue unabated, as do egregious human rights abuses," he said.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana welcomed the chairmanship deferral as "going in the direction the European Union wants."

But EU sanctions against the Burma regime remain in place because it has so far shown no signs of implementing promises to reform and release political prisoners, Solana's spokesperson Cristina Gallach said.

"We do not see any change for the better," she said. *AP*

Japan readies journey to center of the Earth

TOKYO—Japanese scientists are preparing to dig deep inside the Earth for the first time in human history to unlock the mysteries of life in an attempt to figure out how civilization came to be and how to save it.

The researchers will collect the first samples of the Earth's mantle for clues on the primitive organisms that were the forerunners of life—and study tectonic plates that could shake the planet's foundations.

"Deep underground—under high pressure, high temperature, with little air—is the environment similar to the time when the Earth was created? By collecting geological samples from there, we might find biological beings that might have existed when the Earth was born," says Jun Fukutomi, an official with the Center for Deep Earth Exploration (CDEX).

"Samples of the Earth's mantle and crust will also tell us how the Earth's climate has changed in the past. Analysis of these data should give us clues as to how the Earth's environment will change in the future," he says.

The government-backed CDEX will start training of the crew and scientists once the 57,500-ton, deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu is delivered at the end of July.

Chikyu, which means the Earth in Japanese, will embark on experimental voyages later this year.

The 60-billion-yen ($535 million) ship will begin full-scale drilling around the end of September 2007 at waters off the Pacific coast of Japan with an initial project to dig some 3,500 meters into a seabed that is some 2,500 meters under the ocean surface.

The initial project will study the tectonic plate as it is an area where seismologists expect giant quakes within the next several decades. Japan accounts for a quarter of the world's major tremors. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Taiwan sets military exercise

TAIPEI—Taiwan's armed forces on Wednesday prepared to hold a major exercise based on a simulated Chinese invasion, a day after the island's president accused China of military aggression. The exercise, part of five-month-long maneuvers called Hankuang, or Chinese Glory, will test Taiwan's mettle in beating back a hypothetical Chinese attack featuring paratroop landings and sustained bombardment. Previous Hankuang installments have involved simulations of shooting down Chinese missiles and fighting communist commandos trying to take over Taipei and overthrow the government. Taiwanese forces have also practiced fighting Chinese warplanes and naval ships trying to enforce a blockade of the island. *AP*

Suspected Eqypt bomber named

SHARM EL-SHEIKH—Egyptian investigators said Tuesday they had identified a man suspected to be one of the bombers who died in the Sharm el-Sheikh attacks as Cairo denied the involvement of Pakistani nationals. Security sources said investigators suspect a known Sinai Islamist called Yusef Badran was one of the suicide bombers involved in the triple bomb attacks in the Red Sea resort on Saturday, the deadliest in Egypt. DNA tests were being carried out on his family and compared with the remains of the suspected Ghazala Gardens hotel bomber, the most devastating of the strikes. *AFP*

4 US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A roadside bombing killed four American soldiers in southwestern Baghdad, the US command said, and 16 Iraqi government workers died in a hail of gunfire as they left work on the western edge of the capital. The US command said the soldiers from Task Force Baghdad died Sunday night when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in the southwest of the city. The statement gave no further details. The 16 Iraqi government employees were killed Tuesday evening when gunmen fired at a pair of buses taking them from an Industry Ministry facility to their homes in Shiite neighborhoods. Gunmen in two cars followed the buses and opened fire, also wounding 27 passengers, officials said. *AP*

Up to 50 Taliban fighters killed

KANDAHAR—US and Afghan forces killed up to 50 Taliban fighters in central Afghanistan, a provincial governor said on Tuesday after the latest burst of violence in the run-up to crucial September elections. A major Taliban ammunition depot was destroyed and 25 guerrillas captured in the fighting late on Monday in Deh Rawud district of Uruzgan province, Governor Jan Mohammad Khan said. "We have suffered some losses too, but I do not know how many," he told Reuters. "Between 40 and 50 Taliban men died in the fighting and bombing." Monday's fighting followed a clash in a village in the same district earlier that day in which six Afghan troops and one American soldier were killed, Khan said. *Reuters*

Killer of Dutch filmmaker gets life term

AMSTERDAM—An Amsterdam court on Tuesday sentenced Islamic radical Mohammed Bouyeri to life in prison for the murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh, a crime that shocked the Dutch and raised fears about homegrown terrorism. Bouyeri, a 27-year-old Dutch-Moroccan born and raised in The Netherlands, told the court during his trial that he killed Van Gogh—a distant relative of 19th century painter Vincent van Gogh—out of his Islamic beliefs. The victim, who was well known for his scathing criticism of Islam and multicultural society, was shot and stabbed in broad daylight as he cycled the streets of Amsterdam on Nov. 2, 2004. *AFP*

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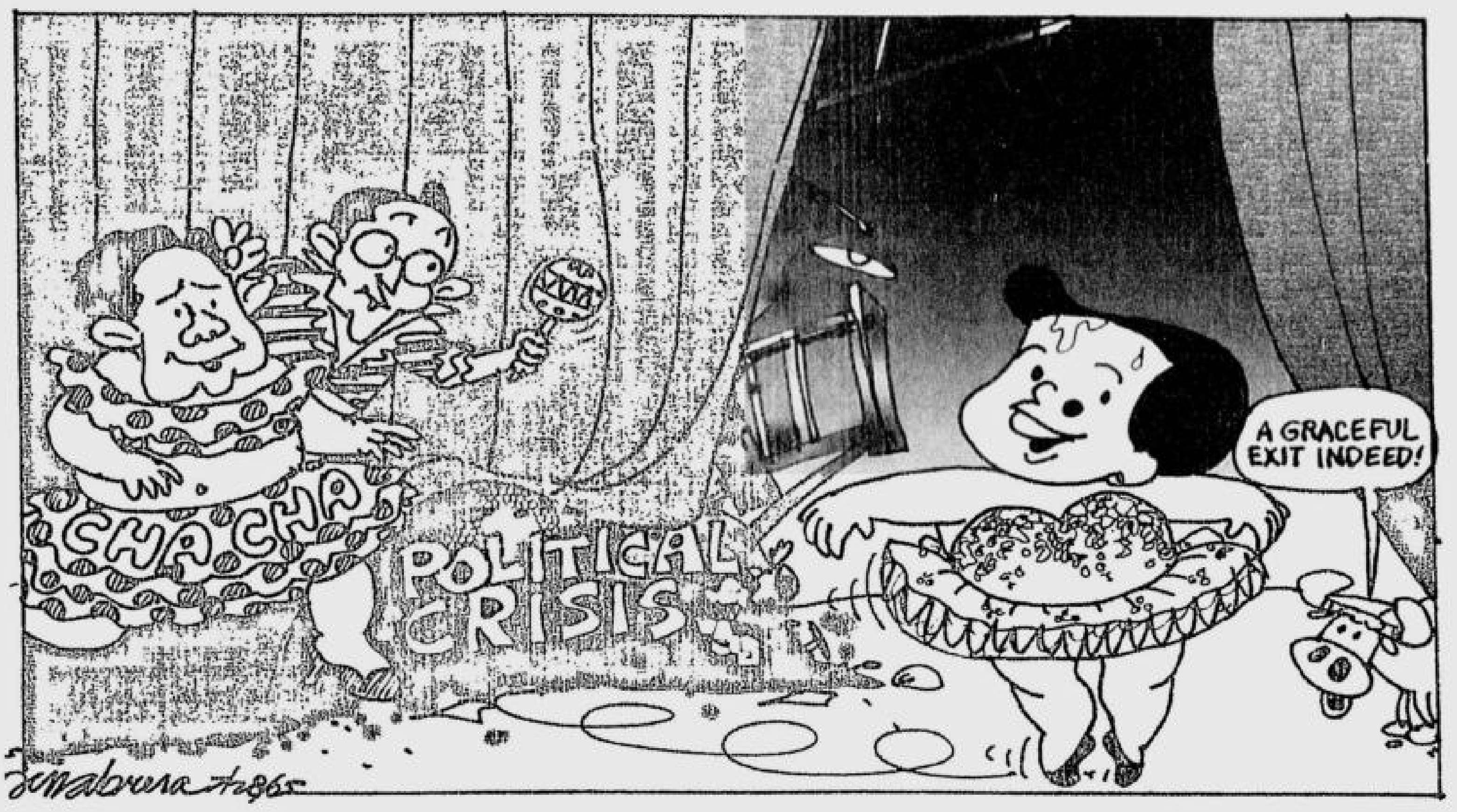

Playing with fire

EDITORIAL

JUST like in the streets where it first brought its case against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the opposition again failed in the House of Representatives to muster the number necessary to bring it closer to its goal of removing her from office. On the eve of the opening of the second session of Congress, it was reported that 67 House members were set to sign the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo—just 12 short of the 79 needed to send it directly to the Senate for trial. That estimate was way off the mark. When the impeachment complaint was submitted by the opposition right after the session opened Monday, it had only 42 signatures on it. So instead of being compelled to transmit the complaint to the Senate, Speaker Jose de Venecia endorsed it to the House committee on justice.

That first round clearly went to the administration. And Malacañang and its allies are leaving nothing to chance as they try to ensure victory in every round.

Earlier, the private counsel of the President filed an answer to the original—and rather haphazardly done—complaint filed by Marcos lawyer Oliver Lozano, who was suspected of trying to preempt the opposition. This administration legal maneuver was apparently meant to forestall the introduction by the opposition of amendments that would expand and strengthen the complaint against the President. Whether to accept or reject the amended complaint will be debated in the committee on justice.

Another contentious issue is whether the complaint can still be sent automatically to the Senate now that it has been endorsed to the committee on justice. Opposition lawmakers say this can still be done once they succeed in gathering the signatures of two-thirds of the House membership, as the Constitution requires. But administration congressmen say those 79 signatures should have been affixed to the complaint when it was filed so it could be sent immediately to the Senate. Since the opposition failed to produce the right number, they add, the committee has as many as 60 session days to determine whether the complaint is sufficient in form and substance.

This House majority view completely ignores the historical precedent set during the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada, who was impeached almost as soon as the required number of signatures was reached, sending his case immediately to the Senate for trial.

Behind the scenes, Malacañang and its congressional allies are said to be working feverishly to shore up support for the President. And they are prepared to use every resource at their disposal to ensure the survival of the Arroyo presidency. Party-list Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay revealed last week that he had been offered by officials in both the executive and legislative branches hundreds of thousands in cash and several millions in projects, provided he would not sign the impeachment complaint. He refused, however, to reveal their identities.

If Magsaysay's allegations are true, then they only show that the administration is prepared to fight impeachment every inch of the way and with every means—legal or even illegal. And what does that make of Ms Arroyo who already stands accused of stealing the presidency, bribery, graft and corruption and other high crimes?

It was the President who picked Congress, acting as an impeachment court, as the arena of political combat. When opposition leaders were arguing their case before the court of public opinion, she challenged them to bring their allegations out of the street and into the proper legal forum, which was Congress. "Take your grievances to Congress where I am willing to submit with due process," she told the opposition.

Is employing every legal trick and maneuver to stall, block and thwart the impeachment process her way of submitting to the process? How can our institutions be strengthened when the administration is determined to use its numerical superiority to set aside historical precedent and fix the rules to favor the President? How can impeachment work as a means for removing erring officials when administration lawmakers look upon the process as nothing more than a numbers game, preferring to vote according to party and personal loyalty instead of looking at the evidence and weighing testimony?

The administration is playing with fire when it maneuvers to nip the impeachment process in the bud. The latest survey says 85 percent of people living in Metro Manila want the President impeached, while 62 percent want her to resign. When those avenues are closed, who is to say where they will be marching?

Let a thousand cell phones bloom

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

AFTER THE PRESIDENT delivered her State of the Nation Address, thousands of cell phones were supposed to unleash text messages that'd send people boiling into the streets. They did that to oust Joseph Estrada.

But this time, the cell phones didn't ring twice.

"About 40,000 protesters turned up in the largest anti-Arroyo demonstration to date," Reuters and the INQUIRER reported. "It was far from the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who took to the streets in 'people power' revolts…in 1986 and in 2001," The New York Times noted.

It was 80,000, insist rally organizers. Inflated claims pander to what columnist Solita Monsod aptly calls "lynch-mob" journalism. "Would it not be simpler / If the Government / Dissolved the people / And elected another?" asks Bertolt Brecht's rib-tickling doggerel.

In "Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution," Howard Rheingold writes that Filipinos, in 2001, provided the first real test of text messaging. Minutes after the "Craven Eleven" senators sealed the Estrada impeachment trial's "second envelope," text messages exploded. "Black-clad protesters, summoned together by a single line passed from phone to phone: 'Go 2 Edsa. Wear Black.' That helped topple President Joseph Estrada."

"Hello, Garci!" ring tones mushroomed following the revelation of wiretapped conversations between the President and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Did the volume lull former Erap secretary Horacio Morales into boasting that one million people would rally as a thousand cell phones bloomed?

"The big test will come during rallies," wrote former United Nations officer Francisco Llaguno before the Sona. "But skeptics think texting or SMS (short messaging service) may not work today."

Now, we know those cell phones didn't. Why? Look at the political context and technology changes.

"A leader is a dealer in hope," Napoleon Bonaparte said. Apparently, the "middle forces"—professionals, their kids, businessmen and religious groups—felt that the opposition, like the administration, didn't offer hope. Can Erap, Jose Maria Sison, Jejomar Binay, Panfilo Lacson or Imee Marcos masquerade as "dealers in hope"? So, phones were switched off.

They did so although Lebanon and Kuwait effectively cloned tactics devised by Filipinos to offer hope.

The Lebanese used e-mail and text messages to whip up a Beirut rally that approximated Edsa's human waves, notes reviewer Cathy Hong in Christian Science Monitor. They sparked the "Cedar Revolution," forcing 14,000 Syrian troops to end a 29-year occupation and the pro-Damascus government to quit.

In Kuwait, women using e-mail and cell phones mustered record numbers into the streets. Their massive peaceful march last May pressured Kuwait's legislature to adopt a landmark law giving women the right to vote and stand for election. That example is rippling across the Muslim world.

Supporters of underdog candidate Roo Moo Hyun in South Korea e-mailed and "texted" 800,000 voters. Roh squeaked through with a 2-percent margin, despite his rival's massive resources.

Only one in four US users sent a text message in the past month. Americans use cell phones only in emergencies. "The cell phone is an inferior version of what you already have at home and work," says University of Southern California anthropologist Mimi Ito.

Even in placid times, Filipinos send 200,000 text messages daily. That makes us "the world's texting capital," says Jan Signell, Ericsson's president for Southeast Asia.

But look around. Within Asean, there are two Malaysian cellular subscribers for every Filipino. In Singapore, it is four. If it's any consolation, we're ahead of Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

"China leapfrogged the traditional landline telephone … going directly to mobile phones," the Worldwatch Institute notes. In 1996, some seven million Chinese hefted a cell phone. But a 38-fold explosion saw that rise to 269 million in 2003.

"Cell phones are defining a generation of Asians," Geoffrey A. Fowler writes in The Wall Street Journal. But the region's edge is cultural, not technological.

Among today's Chinese, cell phones have become status symbols. At funeral rites, relatives burn paper cell phone effigies so that in the afterlife the dead can call.

"People couldn't imagine being dead without it," says Intel Corp. staff anthropologist Genevieve Bell, who studied mobile phone users in seven Asian countries. "The phone is a metaphor of cultural practices as much as it is a piece of technology."

By 2009, annual cell phone sales could top one billion units, says the Gartner research firm. By then, 4 out of 10 people in the world will have mobile handsets.

In Asian countries, mobiles in circulation will spiral to 2.6 billion. Currently, a quarter of all phones are bought in Asia. By decade's end, that will be one in three.

There's a big "but": wholesale prices for handsets must drop from today's average of about $174 to $161 by 2009. That'd be about P9,016 at today's unsteady exchange rates.

Like Filipinos, the Japanese are hooked on their cell phones. But they don't wage revolution on them. In fact, they hardly ever talk on them. Instead, they use their phones to do e-mail, buy music or surf. "They're electronic wallets."

One out of every four Koreans maintains "cyworlds," photo Web logs that can be updated using a camera phone. Japan and Singapore now propose laws to limit unsolicited messages.

Cell phones here could reemerge in battles ahead over "creeping" impeachment, Charter change and outright power grabs, as Erap frantically peddles. But for now, those mute mobiles indicate that for Filipinos d msge s mor imprtnt dan d mdium.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Power to the people

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND told me she had a conversation with a Malaysian recently, and her Malaysian friend teased her: "Why don't you just scrap elections altogether since they don't seem to work for you anyway?" My friend laughed at the joke, but was quite bothered by it. It did seem, she told me, that we were becoming something of a joke for our leaders having short shelf lives.

This reminded me again of a story an American friend, a journalist, told me some years back. This really happened, she assured me. On a trip to the hinterlands of Cambodia, she asked an old woman what she thought of a coming election. The old woman answered: "What can I say? We're having another one again. That means the last one didn't work."

I personally am not bothered by comments about this country making a joke out of its institutions. Or about us having developed a bloodlust we mount king-hunts, or queen-hunts, at every turn. At the very least, who the hell cares what others think of us? At the end of the day we, and not they, will have to live with the consequences of our actions, or the lack of them. Indeed, who the hell cares about the opinion of people who would do well to discover People Power themselves and oust leaders who rule with an iron fist and stay for as long as they want? And send opponents to jail on trumped-up charges, as Mahathir did to Anwar Ibrahim.

But it's more than that. What's weird about the perception, local or foreign, about this country making a travesty of its elections or its institutions is that the campaign to oust GMA is in fact a staunch defense of this country's institutions, chief of them its elections. The campaign to oust GMA is not a throwback to the move to oust Erap, it is a throwback to the move to oust Marcos. Its only resemblance to the oust-Erap campaign is that GMA is accused as well of plunging the country into a gangster's paradise, one ruled by gambling lords, including her son, Mikey, and by people who like to murder journalists. Lest we forget, this country has become the second most corrupt in Asia and the most dangerous place for journalists in the world. That's worse than Erap.

But the move to oust GMA resembles the move to oust Marcos and not Erap because of one fundamental thing. It is a move to oust a president who is not the president at all. The only one who can demand with any credibility that this country respect its institutions, chief of them elections, is Erap—and he does so to this day. He was at least clearly, decidedly, overwhelmingly elected President of the Philippines. Neither Marcos nor Gloria was, or is. Marcos at least after martial law: He was elected twice before that. After martial law, Marcos ruled by force; before martial law, GMA rules by farce. Marcos ruled by decree, GMA rules by Garci. Law was the last thing Marcos had on his side, but it was the first thing he kept invoking. So does Gloria. God must truly be merciful to be sparing with his thunderbolts.

To oust GMA is to defend this country's democratic institutions, it is to defend the sacredness of its elections. It is to affirm in the most forceful way that no one is above the law, no one may mess around with the elections—much less so in the brazen way GMA did with Garci—and get away with it.

Indeed, even if GMA had been voted into power, what of it? If she had committed the same crime as Erap—and her descent into ignominy has been arguably faster and steeper—then she deserves the same fate as Erap.

So what if we have People Power III and IV and V and VI? If that is what it will take to stop candidates from raping the electoral will, then by all means let us have them. If that is what it will take to prevent public officials from pillaging the country's wealth, then by all means let us have them. If that is what it will take to remove every last scoundrel and every last act of villainy in public office, then by all means let us have them.

People Power is the last resort of the poor and oppressed in this country. It is their only means of redress. It is their only source of restorative justice. This is a country where the media are routinely ignored and their members routinely decimated when they pry too deeply. This is a country where the courts are owned by the rich and powerful, and decisions are auctioned to the highest bidder. This is a country where the law enforcers are the lawbreakers, where the lawmakers are the asslickers, where the leaders and their coteries are gangsters.

This is a country in fact where the only choices given to the citizens are to leave it or fight to reclaim it. I leave those who leave it to justify it—to themselves as much as to others. I choose to fight.

In the profoundest sense of things, People Power is the staunchest defense of the institutions of democracy there is. It is not a genie that can be summoned at will from a magic lamp, and those who imagine it to be are free to come here and try it. The only occasions when People Power arose in this country were when the democratic institutions became so perverted, so removed from the public weal—when the law has become an instrument of injustice in the hands of tyrants, when the courts have become an instrument of oppression in the hands of a Mafia, when elections have become a weapon to bludgeon the sovereign will in the hands of Gloria—that there was no recourse but to move to cleanse them, to rise to restore them.

What are our institutions but the physical emanations or tangible embodiments of our democratic will? And what is People Power but the direct expression or restorative intervention of our sovereign will?

Opposition wants GMA TKO'd by Senate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE'S an interesting argument being peddled in the media by the opposition: Nothing less than a Senate trial for President Macapagal-Arroyo would do justice to the impeachment complaint; anything less would be a "subversion" of the impeachment process. This argument does a grave injustice to the Constitution (which has enshrined the impeachment process step by step) as well as to the rules drawn up by the House of Representatives, which is duty-bound to give the complaint due course.

* * *

This argument has surfaced after the opposition failed to muster 79 votes last Monday. Apparently it's insisting on the Senate trial because GMA seems to have few allies there. But her House allies suspect that the Senate is bound to hold a kangaroo court, especially because Senate President Franklin Drilon, who will co-preside with the Chief Justice in a trial, already called for GMA's resignation three weeks ago. Hence, her House allies may be expected to thwart the opposition's intention at every stage of the impeachment process. But there's nothing illegal or immoral about that—that's the way the political combat is played out.

Interestingly, the opposition never complained when the impeachment case against former Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco went through the House committee on justice but was killed in the House plenary vote, despite the tons of evidence against her. The opposition then was squarely behind Tancangco. Now in the case against GMA, because it probably realizes it doesn't have the numbers, it claims the process will be "subverted" if it doesn't end up in the Senate.

* * *

As per House rules, if the complaint is filed with 79 endorsing signatures, it goes straight to the Senate and bypasses the House committee on justice and the plenary vote. Without those 79 votes, it will be subjected to the justice committee's scrutiny as to "form and substance." Within 60 session days, the committee has to submit a report for voting by all 236 members of the House. For an impeachment report to move up to the Senate, it must get at least 79 votes in the plenary.

* * *

Rep. Simeon Datumanong, justice committee chair, has advised the opposition to focus all its attention on defending the complaint instead of pressing the committee to send it straight to the Senate. He argues that the time to do that was when they filed it. I can see what Datumanong and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, who chairs the committee on rules, are driving at: There is a big difference between being subjected to the impeachment process, which GMA is now undergoing, and being convicted by the Senate.

* * *

The opposition says that GMA should instruct her House allies to remove every stumbling block to her impeachment so that the truth can be determined in the Senate. This is crazy argument. It's like a boxer going into the ring, believing the fight would be guided by the rules of the boxing committee, and then being told by his opponent to creep into his own corner and allow himself to be bludgeoned until he's TKO'd. There are rules governing boxing, and a referee is assigned to ensure these rules are observed; but in the fight, both sides are expected to give their best and resort to all kinds of tactics to defend themselves, so long as these are according to the rules. The impeachment process is nothing less, but the opposition is now telling GMA to just creep into the corner with her hands tied, and wait to get TKO'd by the Senate.

* * *

At a TV talk show, Inday Avanceña Arcenas, granddaughter of the late President Jose P. Laurel, recalled how her *lolo*, a Nacionalista, fought against President Elpidio Quirino in the election of 1949, which was deemed one of the most fraudulent elections in Philippine history. The issues then, Inday recalled, were economic stability and the urgent need for reconstruction of the war-torn country. When Laurel was defeated, his followers, especially the Batangueños, wanted to revolt. Gen. Napoleon Valeriano argued that many sectors would support him, but Laurel counseled his followers to just keep cool and follow the Constitution. The NPs waited four years, and in 1953, Laurel and Sen. Claro Recto joined forces to help topple Quirino by supporting Ramon Magsaysay. In those four years Laurel carried out a one-man crusade against the Quirino administration. He continued criticizing its policies and calling for national preparedness and good government. But although he was the victim of "wholesale fraud and terrorism," he continued to call on the people to uphold the Constitution and on the opposition to be the watchdog of the people. In our time, when the Constitution is being subverted, Inday Arcenas' reminder is timely.

* * *

Calling on all my fellow alumnae from the College of the Holy Spirit. The CHS Alumnae Foundation, in cooperation with the Friends in Art (FIAT), will present an eight-hand charity piano concert, dubbed "Show of Hands," featuring renowned Filipino pianists, namely, UST College of Music dean Raul Sunico, Dom Manuel Maramba and our own CHS alumnae, Amelita Dayrit-Guevara (HS '53) and Carmen Dayrit-Padilla (HS '60). The concert will be held this Saturday, July 30, at the Philamlife Auditorium on UN Avenue, Manila, at 7:30 p.m. (cocktails at 6 p.m. before the show). Please come in formal attire. Let's support this concert. Proceeds will go partly to the CHSAF's scholarship program for deserving CHS students in need, and partly to the Tagaytay Conference Center project of FIAT in Mendez, Cavite, which promotes learning activities that foster human and Christian values through professional and educational seminars and workshops. For details, please contact Cynthia Lorenzo-Picazo at 531-0418 or Cell No. 0917-888-1311, or Beth Torio at the Alumnae Office, 735-5986.

'The countryside that feeds it'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE LINE from President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address that played over and over in my mind was: "Perhaps it's time to take the power from the center to the countryside that feeds it." GMA received a roaring applause from her *promdi* (proudly *promdi*, obviously) supporters. That line lingered like a long-lost refrain that was suddenly, if not conveniently, found.

In saying that, the President was obviously playing to the gallery of supporters from local government units who, at the tipping point of her government's crisis early this month, rallied around her when many in her own official family abandoned ship. Was GMA's ode to loyalty perhaps the fruit of her intimate town hall-type campaign sortie during the 2004 elections, a strategy she used to counter FPJ's crowd-drawing power?

With that statement, GMA was also making a dig at so-called "imperialist Manila," the center of the protest rallies calling for her resignation. Oh, but how her provincial cheering squad in the Batasan rafters reveled in her words. Outside, a mammoth protest rally calling for her ouster was setting her effigy on fire.

The context in which the statement was said may have been full of contradictions and sounded unconvincing to her critics, but taken at face value, the statement sounded like music to the ears of the oft-forgotten local officials who suddenly found themselves important. Perhaps many had all the reasons to feel KSP (*kulang sa pansin*) for so long, until last Monday's Sona.

Taken at face value and without its political color, the statement "Perhaps it's time to take the power from the center to the countryside that feeds it" is indeed a reality to wish for. This is a loaded statement that should not be glibly uttered to merely warm the cockles of the hearts of those far from the center. It should hold weight like a promise made after one is nearly struck down from one's horse.

While the statement has a political ring to it, it might as well be taken literally.

"...the countryside that feeds it." For so long, the countryside, the provider of food and raw materials for our national sustenance, has felt neglected by the national government. It has always been lip service on the part of many politicians.

During election time, it is usually the dense urban population that politicians woo because the votes are there in concentration. The campaigner does not have to cover a big geographical area. Last year, while gathering data for a series on families living near the railroad tracks, I photographed shanties pasted over with campaign posters with promises that went down with the rain (the promises, that is) after only one rainy season.

The city's squatters (now euphemistically known as informal dwellers) do get a lot of attention or, if they're lucky, the fruits of their votes. Not far from where I live in Quezon City is a depressed area blessed with cemented roads. The taxpayers in the nearby area have to live with potholes and clogged canals.

I am not saying the urban poor should not get services. They should. But while they are able to demand from the national government new homes and services in relocation areas, many poor public school teachers in the provinces have no decent homes and safe water to drink, many have to walk through muddy fields to get to their classrooms. They are all but forgotten. No wonder, many from the provinces go to the cities to join the "informal" dwellers.

If we have to get literal with the word "feeds" in the Sona statement, then it is the food producers and providers in the countryside that should take center stage. I wish GMA had named them as such in the context of "the countryside feeding the (center)." Or might she just have been referring to her loyal political supporters from "the countryside"? For they had indeed fed support to the center which was/is on the brink of collapse.

Speaking of farmers and the agricultural sector, they should find alarming the new global push for extremely restrictive seed laws or "agricultural apartheid." These seed laws, says GRAIN's Seedling Magazine, are supposed to have little to do with protection of farmers and a lot to do with creating conditions for the private seed industry to gain and control markets worldwide. Seed laws are about repression of farmers.

GRAIN says: "Back in the 1960s, seed laws referred to rules governing the commercialization of seeds: what materials could be sold on the market under what conditions. From the 1960s through the 1980s, agencies like the FAO and the World Bank played a very strong role in getting developing countries to adopt seed laws. The main idea, officially speaking, was to ensure that only 'good quality' planting materials reach farmers in order to raise productivity and therefore feed growing populations.

"However, the marketing rules that the FAO and the World Bank effectively pushed came from Europe and North America, the very place where the seed industry is in place."

Alas, seeds are now produced by seed industry professionals and no longer by farmers themselves. Europe is supposed to be hardest hit by seed laws all these years and activists are working hard to reverse the system. Farmer-controlled seed systems have to be encouraged, they have to thrive if developing countries are to have "autonomous, culturally meaningful and socially-supported forms of agriculture" in different countries.

What is the government doing to protect our farmers who feed and nourish us?

If you want to know more about the alarming seed laws, visit www.grain.org/seedling.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

The Sixth Republic

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PRESIDENT proposed, in her State of the Nation Address, that a new, "Sixth Republic" be established for our country. At first, it seemed she wanted this done in a manner that went against what she—and her father before her—felt was the only way to properly lay down the framework for a new republic: through a convention. But her press conference yesterday suggested that, after pandering to her party mates at the Batasan last Monday, she has other ideas of her own as to how a new Constitution should be drafted.

In that press conference, the President said she has in mind some sort of a consultative constitutional commission that would propose exactly what changes should be made to the Constitution. This seems to be the President's way of making the amendments through a Constituent Assembly acceptable to the public. There is no greater proof of how our elected representatives—particularly in the lower house—are perceived as unrepresentative of their constituents than the public mistrust of placing constitutional change in Congress' hands.

Were our representatives (and their family, members, too) to deny themselves the fruit of their labors by vowing not to hold office in the first legislature of the new Constitution, then people might be less skeptical. But our officials are advocating constitutional change not only for them to live on, but also for their tribe, so to speak, to increase. Hence, the President's toying with the idea of a supplementary commission.

Such a commission would offer a way out for both houses of Congress, which are on a collision course.

The one proposal in the "Ramosian trinity"—federalism, unicameralism, parliamentarism—that was seemingly swallowed hook, line and sinker by the President and cheered by absolutely everyone in the admittedly captive audience inside the Batasan, was federalism. It captured the imagination of people on both sides of the political aisle, in the cities and in the provinces. Federalism, in itself, does not require the other -isms in the Ramosian trinity. We can be bicameral and be federal, we can be presidential and be federal.

Indeed, we can sacrifice parliamentarism and unicameralism to achieve federalism, and it would be enough to excite a lot of people who wouldn't otherwise support the Ramos plan. Federalism would, for example, appeal to people in the provinces and reduce the scope of authority of both the president and the bureaucracy to foreign affairs, national defense and inter-state and world trade.

But what of those who want to get rid of the presidency as a powerful institution, or of the Senate as a component of the legislature? They are asking for the sun, the stars and the moon. I am convinced that our culture demands a chief executive who is not only nationally elected but who is also with national responsibilities. The problem with the presidency is not the institution; it is the near-impossibility of having a presidency armed with an unquestionable majority, not just a plurality. We have not had a president armed with an unquestionable majority since 1965. We have not had a president armed with a landslide victory since 1969: Cory Aquino had to have a revolution to enforce her victory. All presidents from Aquino down have had pretty pathetic pluralities (Estrada's so-called impressive showing in 1998 wasn't even as good, percentage-wise, as Carlos P. Garcia's plurality in 1957), and Filipinos are like the French: we only respect majority victories, and instinctively rebel against minority rule, which is what pluralities achieve.

Only Fidel Ramos managed to keep his presidency intact with a plurality because he had something other recent presidents lacked: long experience in handling people, and a fairly solid constituency, the military, that provided loyal and effective backing to his governance. However, the manner by which presidents are selected almost guarantees the failure of any president under the present system.

The solution, then, is run-off elections to ensure that presidents have a majority. Add to this, the political near-impossibility of asking the Senate to abolish itself (which I also believe the public won't support; the public prefers an inefficient legislature to a rubber stamp unicameral assembly), and what do you have? Either the continuation of the status quo, or some reforms for the Senate. What reforms could those be?

Well, you're back to federalism. Such a system would suggest a Senate composed of senators elected by federal district, or by region; with more limited law-making powers restricted to approving or vetoing laws passed by the lower house. This might be made acceptable to the senators by giving them the sole power to confirm Cabinet and such other appointments that under the present system has to pass the Commission on Appointments. This would also remove the bicameral conference committee, which produces laws very different from those passed by either house.

Finally, what of the congressmen who are having tantalizing visions of having everything to themselves? Give them what they have always wanted, which is the chance to hold Cabinet portfolios while remaining congressmen. This has been their dream since the time of Sergio Osmeña Sr., who wanted to remain speaker and at the same time hold a Cabinet portfolio under the Jones Law. A president with reduced powers, but an unquestionable mandate; a Senate that's a throwback to the 1916-1935 legislature, elected by regions, with confirmatory powers; a lower house that holds Cabinet portfolios, under a prime minister who runs the Cabinet in consultation with the president; and provincial governments with more room for experimentation and self-rule under federalism. Win-win!

Maverick

YOUNG BLOOD

Tina Papera

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT has been eight years since we first met, in the summer of 1997. I was about to turn 18 when my dad introduced us. I needed him to help with the preparations for my debut. My dad needed his help with his office stuff, computers mainly. At such a young age he knew so much, far more than so many adults I knew at that time, probably even until now.

From the very first day I saw him, my life never felt the same. Every time I looked at him, he looked as if he were somewhere far away or thinking about something deeply. We became very good friends, despite his being such a quiet, introspective guy, and me being an outspoken, carefree girl. Sometimes we seemed to live in a world of our own, talking about things other people would not really care to think about. We'd sing together, though my voice could not compare with his (I thought he had the most beautiful voice in the world). He would sing and play the guitar and I would just lose myself listening to him.

There were times when I needed to stay at their house, and I would sleep in his room together with his siblings. Nobody cared because we were like family.

I was drawn strongly to him. I wrote poems, some sad ones, some about the rain and the full moon that we both loved. There were just times when I created numerous pieces because he believed in me and inspired me a lot.

One time he told me that if he could choose a name for himself it would be "Maverick." I thought it was a weird name at the time. No, actually I thought it was a stupid name. When you are young, you think anything funny is either stupid or just downright weird. It's only now that I have come to realize that the name suited him perfectly.

After that summer, we just lost touch for some time. He pursued his degree in at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, and I finished college in UP Los Baños. I went on with my life, wondering whatever happened to the boy who had taught me that life, though complicated, had beautiful things to offer and one just had to look closely and intently to find them.

Two years ago, my brother told me he had seen him. He said my childhood sweetheart had asked about me when they bumped into each other on the MRT.

I thought that was crazy and impossible. Even more improbably, my brother gave his cell phone number to me.

I could hardly believe that I was texting him the next minute. I was sad to get short, cryptic replies that I could not understand. So I thought, "Forget it, he's not interested in bringing you back into his life."

One week after, his face just popped right in front of me. He was accidentally blocking my way as I was walking home. We were both stunned. After six years without any contact whatsoever, we were there staring at each other.

We started seeing each other casually. He told me he had a girlfriend and that he loved her very much. They had been together since they met in college.

I was heartbroken, but he did not know it at that time. We noted how funny our lives were when we were teenagers. We recalled the times we stayed up until morning in their house, singing every America song in his tattered songbook.

I fell in love with him again, and I told myself I didn't want to lose this boy twice, this boy who had inspired me to do so much simply by being with me.

We became very close. We spent hours texting each other about philosophical and mundane things—about just anything and everything. I told him the pains I had experienced in my life and how they had healed. He told me his frustrations and how he had coped. We always assured each other, "I'll see you when I see you." But we never put a date to when we would meet because we were sure the time would come.

We had a friendship that went beyond what friendship meant to others. But we knew it would not last long because he was committed to someone he loved deeply. Still we told each other that we would keep each other's memory wherever we went. And that even when we would have grown old and grey, we would stay in touch if we could.

Those promises now seem so far away. He told me we could not keep our friendship. He told me we had to stop communicating with each other in whatever form because he loved his girlfriend and what we were doing was slowly making them lose trust in each other.

I know love hurts. I know that to love is to risk a big part of you, probably your most valued memories, sentiments, emotions, your deepest thoughts and dreams, because that's the only way you can let the other person know how you feel. But I never knew it could hurt so much.

He did not want me to say goodbye, but what's the use? That was already goodbye in its crudest form. He asked if I hated him, and I said the only people you could hate so much were the ones who meant so much to you.

I know that he did what he had to do, and that it hurt him to do so. He had the courage to say and do what was right. And this made me admire him more.

We won't have anymore "I'll see you when I see you" moments. He has been more than an inspiration to me; he completed a part of my life like nobody else could. Just like the name he wanted for himself, he was simply one of a kind.

When I look back, I wonder if he was for real. Probably he was never a part of my life and never will be. He was probably just a figment of my imagination, born from my desire to know someone so ideal.

No, Maverick, you never actually existed.

Tina Papera, 26, finished AB Communication Arts at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and now works as a marketing associate with a restaurant chain.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

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Anti-Wire Tapping Law: the good and the bad in it

LOST in the battle of the Gloria and Erap wiretapped tapes is an anomalous situation in Republic Act 4200 (Anti-Wire Tapping Act). The law is good in that it protects people against illegal intrusion into their right to privacy in conversations. The law is bad in that it bans all kinds of wiretaps unless authorized by a written order of a judge.

Consider this situation: Your child is kidnapped. You receive a telephone call from the kidnapper who lets you hear your child's crying voice. He demands ransom money. He instructs you not to call the police. He'd call you in 30 minutes to know if you have raised the money and give directions of where, when and how the ransom will be delivered by you.

Since it is impossible to go to Court to get a written order within 30 minutes, you wiretap your phone. You record the kidnapper's voice and ransom instructions. Because of the recorded conversation, the police is able to investigate and arrest the kidnapper.

Who goes to jail? The kidnapper? No. You go to jail.

All because RA 4200 absolutely bans the use of illegally wiretapped evidence in a court of law or in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings.

The prosecutor cannot introduce the wiretapped voice of the kidnapper as evidence to prove the identity of the kidnapper. Lawyers love to call this, "the fruit of the poisonous tree"; therefore, it is inadmissible evidence. The kidnapper is set free.

The kidnapper turns the tables on you. He sues you for violation of RA 4200 because you wiretapped him without a written court order. You, the victim of the crime, go to jail.

RA 4200 admits of no exception to wiretapped conversations. The only legal use of wiretapping is when it is authorized in writing by a judge who must first interview you to see if his order to wiretap is justified.

RA 4200 must be amended to admit of some exceptions such as the one just described.

—LEONARD DE VERA, chair, Equal Justice For All (EJUST)
Unit Penthouse B, Windsor Tower
163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229

Corrupt politicians and useless leaders

I'VE been working abroad for the past eight years. I'm just lucky to have my family with me.

However, back home, our countrymen are suffering. Yet, the rich politicians, elected to public office in order to serve the people and make personal sacrifices for the greater good, are doing nothing else but engage in political bickerings just to advance their selfish political ambitions and to protect their wealth and personal interests and their hold to power. Right now, no one among them deserves to be in their positions of public trust.

Look at what's happening to our country—too much political wranglings but little public service. The politicians are destroying the country. They do not serve the poor. "To hell with public service" is almost what they are saying by their deeds, though not with their words.

Sometimes, I'm tempted to question our capability to govern ourselves as a nation. Maybe, it's better for us to surrender our sovereignty to a country that can handle our political and economic affairs better.

The chaos and hardships the less privileged among us are going through right now have further pushed them to the wall of resignation, if not despair. Of course, they have been despondent and disappointed decades back because of our useless and corrupt politicians. Why do you think so many Filipinos work abroad nowadays? That's the result of bad government and bad governors—the politicians.

The only way out of our present predicament is to get rid of these corrupt politicians—especially the *trapos*—and to unite as a people in order to work for the common good, particularly for the poor. But the problem is: how can you get rid of the vultures of corruption? I guess there's no way we can do this in our country. Hence, the poor will remain poorer in our own land, unless they are fortunate enough to get jobs and earn decent incomes abroad.

I sound desperate, right? Indeed, I am and so are our people. Let the incumbent politicians know this!

—BENEDICTO D. PEREZ,
dick_perez@hotmail.com

Listen to militants

THE LETTER of a certain Lester L. Javier, which was titled "Shutting up the militants" (PDI, 7/19/05), is very unfair and one-sided. Javier did not see the important role played by militants in Philippine society.

Militant groups are the spark of change and deserve to be listened to. In many instances, their views are true and lead to progress. If we look back to our history, it was the militant and revolutionary group KKK that overthrew the Spanish colonizers and gained sovereignty for the Filipinos.

If we look at today's militants, like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), they have been correct on several issues. For instance, on the Oil Deregulation Law, the government claimed that with this law, oil prices would go down because many oil players would come in. Bayan said that oil prices would go higher because this law would allow the profit-minded oil companies to freely increase oil prices. The militant Bayan has been proven right.

So, instead of shutting up the militants, let us listen to them. If their views are wrong and go against the interest of the Filipino people, let us air our criticisms; but if their views are correct, let us join hands with them.

—WARLITO V. FANILAG,
Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur,
kmpwmr@yahoo.com

Unbelievable performance

IF Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were a Trappist nun cloistered in a faraway abbey, I could have easily believed that what she did was a simple lapse in judgment, considering a nun's naiveté—bordering on ignorance—on worldly affairs, such as electoral fraud.

But the President had, in the last elections, almost everybody at her beck and call.

The Comelec was hers. So were the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, and the entire government machinery. She had the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. that distributed largesse to local officials, down to Sangguniang Barangay members, shortly before the 2004 elections. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office underwrote the PhilHealth cards with her familiar face, which were distributed all over the country, again shortly before the elections. Who or what could she have been afraid of, especially since the surveys said she would win over Fernando Poe Jr., her closest rival in the polls? From whom did she want to protect her votes?

Surely, she had circles of advisers who could have apprised her of the difference between a simple lapse in judgment and betrayal of public trust. The actions that her underlings subsequently took, which were tantamount to publicly lying about the "Gloriagate" tapes and the attempts to keep relevant information from the public and go after the whistle-blowers only reveal that she was fully aware of the gravity of what she had done and of its consequences.

Like her carefully scripted admission, what Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and her other lieutenants did to shield or protect her proved that her admitted transgression was much more serious than a mere lapse in judgment. As they say in court: "*Res ipsa loquitur* (A thing speaks for itself)."

A person who asks for forgiveness during confession first discloses fully the sins that he has committed and becomes sincerely contrite for such transgressions. GMA might have looked contrite, but such mien can easily be emoted after practice or training. What was sorely lacking in her TV appearance was full disclosure of the sins for which she asked the people to forgive her. Not only did she not name the Comelec official she talked to, she also did not admit any transgression other than talking to him.

Her plea was as unbelievable as her contrite look.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ,
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Navotas, Metro Manila

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Golden voices of Legazpi radio

By Jed Ll. Bacason
Legazpi City

NO HARD-HITTING comments, no blackmails, no media killings. This was how the "golden voices of radio" in Legazpi City remember commercial broadcasting industry when it was just beginning 40 years ago in Albay's capital.

As the nation shook from the recent assassinations of journalists in the provinces, some of the pioneer broadcasters recounted the glorious history of radio broadcasting when media practices and the way the audience and politicians treated them were different.

Most of the pioneers have either retired or died. Others remain active in the profession or are employed in other businesses.

They all started at the bottom of the work hierarchy and showed professionalism and conviction, which drew respect from colleagues and the public, not bullets in the chest, some of the veteran broadcasters said.

Although they could now hardly remember details of the early radio operations, they said the broadcast profession then was dignified and lucrative, and radiomen were different from their counterparts today.

Happy days

"Those were very, very happy days. We were part of the glory of radio—the golden years—when all radio personalities were treated as celebrities," said Cielito Vita, a former employee of the ABS-CBN-owned dzBL. The station operated in Legazpi from 1966 to 1972.

"When you were an announcer during our time, you were a popular and much-loved person. You had a horde of fans who asked for your picture with an autograph," Vita recalled.

Now 61 and connected with a local cable television provider, he smiled as he reminisced the days when listeners, usually high school students, would flock to radio stations just to have a glimpse of the persons behind the voices on the air.

Although he worked as chief technician of the station, Vita said he, too, had his share of adulation and respect during the '60s and '70s.

A colleague and veteran broadcaster, Nelson Arao, agreed.

"There was an instance when we visited the island of Catanduanes because we were invited to a basketball game. Would you believe that we were greeted by a marching band as we entered the court?" Arao recalled.

"We filled the gymnasium in Catanduanes because people looked at us as [celebrities]. They were asking for our autographs."

Arao is one of the most popular broadcasters in Legazpi, hosting a successful and the longest-running morning progam, "Paninindigan," at dzRC. He started his career in 1961 at MBC-dzAA, the second broadcast station in the city. He later moved to HBC-dwZR, FBN-dzRC, RGMA-dwCW and other stations.

Respect

Arao belongs to two generations of media practitioners and is a witness to the drastic change in the profession's image.

News analyses then were objective and impersonal, he said. "The announcers were loved and respected by the public for their views."

The most serious threat a radio station received came from an anonymous phone caller or a possible libel suit from a visitor who had been the subject of criticisms, Arao said.

During media functions and forums, broadcasters sat at the "presidential table," rubbing elbows with the VIPs, he said.

"Nowadays, broadcasters are not respected in the same manner as we were before. This is maybe because of the large number of practitioners now, lack of proper education and diminishing sense of professionalism," Arao said.

STAFF members of the "Harana" radio program would go to houses for an instant, live on-air serenade. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The era of radio broadcasting in Legazpi began in 1958 when Bicol Wire Broadcasting Station (BWBS) was set up, 26 years after the pioneering radio station began broadcasting in Metro Manila.

BWBS was called "Radyo Balagon" because it used cable wires, instead of aircast signals, to feed music and news to paying subscribers.

Months later, the second radio station and first aircast station in the locality, dzAL, opened. It was owned by Generoso Hubilla, a native of Sorsogon and former radio announcer of dzRH in Manila.

Other commercial radio stations signed on. These included dzAA, owned by Pacific Broadcasting Corp.; dzGB, formerly BWBS but adopted the aircast style to cope with the competition; dzRG, owned by Filipinas Broadcasting Corp.; dzBL, ABS-CBN's first radio station in the locality; and dwZR, owned by Dr. Hernandez Baldo of Manito, Albay.

Some of them lived through the martial law years while others did not survive.

Entertainment

As with pioneers in Manila, the local radio stations started as media for entertainment, giving less focus on news and information.

Radyo Balagon's original program lineup had entertainment shows, including jukebox favorites, radio drama, live singing contests, and dedication programs, that catered to the interest of the paying audience. It even created dramas with vernacular scripts.

DzBL had a "*harana*" (serenade) program. Its staff would go to several randomly picked houses and do an on-the-spot, live on-air serenade to a usually amused audience.

The live show, aired from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., was a hit among the listeners. "The people were always excited and surprised to hear their names on air," Vita said.

At that time, the stations did not yet employ reporters. News information was largely derived from national newspapers, and taped and transcribed radio reports from Manila.

Newscasting with 'consent'

Local reporting was introduced only in 1965, with news derived mainly from police blotters. Reporters still had to ask for permission from police authorities to broadcast news about crimes and accidents as a "courtesy," said Delia Bobadilla-Encinares, a part-time announcer in the now defunct dzAL.

They also had to ask for permission from persons involved in the controversy so as not to defame them, Encinares said.

"The reporters were different back then. They were courteous and preferred reporting good news over crimes and scandals," she recalled.

Encinares, who described her six-year stint at dzAL as "truly unforgettable," said "a person was very proud back then when his or her name was mentioned on-air so reporters made sure to tell the person beforehand if his or her name was involved in a controversy."

Commentaries became part of dzAL programming in the late '60s, but these were meant only to remind the people or politicians to keep their commitment, Encinares said. Insulting words and vulgar language were prohibited by management.

Arturo Osia, one of the respected pillars of broadcasting in the city, said most of the news reports were lifted from police blotters. Due to the confidentiality of some of the cases in the police files, "the reporters then were required to ask permission first before a news story can be made about a particular case," he said.

Osia, whose career spanned 33 years in four radio stations, is now serving as a consultant of the mayor. His was the dominant voice on air during the martial law period, having been ordered by the military to "help the people understand what the general orders and all the rulings regarding martial law were all about."

No competition

"It was a happy competition. There was no back-stabbing among the stations and station staff," Vita recalled.

Rival stations helped each other in times of need, he said. "When a radio station was off-air because of lack of a spare part, we would voluntarily lend it to them."

"We were a happy lot. While we competed with one another, we never set aside camaraderie. We never fought on a personal level," Raffi Banzuela described the bond among broadcasters then.

On weekends, they would meet and talk about issues over a bottle of whiskey or rum, and the card game, black jack.

Banzuela, a respected veteran broadcaster, was then the youngest station manager in the locality. He managed one FM and three AM stations and is now chair of the communications department of the Aquinas University of Legazpi.

Encinares said receiving favors from politicians was discouraged by the dzAL management, but she admitted that the station occasionally received snacks from politicians, especially during elections.

Announcers in dzBL did not receive bribes, attested Virgilio Arcos, a popular broadcaster of the station.

Arcos, who handled dedication programs, started his broadcasting career at dzBL in 1968, two years after the station was established. Now 60 and retired, he spent 28 years in the industry, including 20 years as manager of the Benedicto-owned dzGW.

"During elections, the politicians would just deliver *pansit* [noodles] to Commission on Elections officials and media men. Our station manager then, Jimmy Alanis, strictly prohibited acceptance of *paipit* (bribe money)," Arcos said, adding: "If an employee was [found] accepting bribes, that person would immediately be fired."

Media practice took a turn for the worse when martial law was declared and activism started to spread. Press freedom was suppressed and the once peaceful media aired an activist voice, fiercely criticizing the government. Corruption also slowly crept in the industry.

Today, whenever a VIP is to be interviewed, the initial question would be, "*Meron ba d'yan*? (Is there anything [bribe] there)," one pioneer said.

Four media-related killings have remained unsolved in Albay, although authorities have apprehended the main suspect in one of the cases.

"It's about time the KBP (Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas) and the Papi (Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc.) came out with a master list of the real, legitimate broadcasters and the print [journalists]. When someone apparently connected with the media is killed, people always conclude that it's an attack on press freedom, even if it's more on a personal level," Arao said.

He said some individuals buy time in a radio station just to hit other people on-air. "When his enemies kill him, we say it's an attack on press freedom when that person's banters were self-serving," he said.

"I dream of the day when the people's high regard of the broadcasters will come back. Because these days, when people see a broadcaster, they would say, '*Ayan, mangongotong 'yan*' (There goes an extortionist)," Arao said.

Journalists, especially the honest ones, are an endangered species now, he said.

"So, if you are working in the broadcast industry, you should be brave enough to say the truth of the matter. That is how a broadcaster should be," Arao said.

VIRGILIO Arcos, who started his broadcasting career in 1968, says announcers then did not take bribes. Now 60 and retired, he is shown in photo manning a radio booth during his early years in dzBL station. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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NOKIA 2100
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2. Renato Alison (190 Warm St. Summerville Mayamot Antipolo City)
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5. Marilou R. Domingo (Lot 17 Blk 12 Magnolia St. Midtown Subdivision Cainta Rizal)
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Bail for gov's nephew in drug bust hit

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Officials of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the provincial prosecutor in Zambales clashed over the prosecutor's order on Monday to release a nephew of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay and his two companions over a drug offense.

Supt. Jerome Baxinela, PDEA acting regional director, said he found it "irregular" for Prosecutor Nini Cruz to allow the temporary release of Enrique Magsaysay Jr., Christopher Dilag and Noel Tonel.

PDEA operatives arrested the three men while they were allegedly in a shabu session inside the compound of Segundo Cervantes in Barangay Calapacuan in Subic, Zambales, on July 22, according to a PDEA report.

A small plastic bag of shabu (*methamphetamine hydrochloride*), a strip of aluminum foil and a lighter were seized from the three men, the report added.

Baxinela has appealed to Cruz to allow the agency to regain custody of the suspects.

At the center of the dispute is whether it was correct to give temporary freedom to supposed violators of Section 13, Article 2 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act 9165).

Section 13, according to Baxinela, does not provide bail or even temporary liberty for three persons found using illegal drugs during parties and other gatherings.

Cruz, in her July 15 order, allowed the release of Magsaysay and his companions since the PDEA failed to submit the result of the drug test within the prescribed period of 36 hours.

However, Cruz ordered a preliminary investigation.

In a phone interview, Cruz said the release was in order because the pieces of evidence presented by the law enforcers were "incomplete." She said the law allowed the men their right to temporary freedom. "This is part of the regular preliminary investigation," she said.

Cruz said Cervantes, the house owner, was detained for alleged drug pushing.

As of Wednesday, Baxinela said his agency has not yet received the results of the tests done by the Philippine National Police's crime laboratory in Zambales.

Operatives found the delay "unusual" because it normally takes 24 hours to get the results of a test.

When Baxinela inquired about the delay, he was told that the confirmation process on the urine samples they submitted was taking time.

Governor Magsaysay, in a telephone interview, said he had "not interfered ever in the case." "*Wala akong pakialam diyan, maski kamag-anak ko pa* (I don't have any interest in the case even if he was my relative)," he said.

The younger Magsaysay, 37, a businessman, is the governor's nephew by his cousin Enrique Sr., the former mayor of Castillejos town. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PDEA sues 3 prosecutors for 'bungling' drug cases

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Western Visayas has filed criminal and administrative complaints against three prosecutors here for allegedly deliberately bungling the prosecution of three drug cases.

Supt. Rolen Balquin, PDEA regional director, filed the complaints against Bacolod City Prosecutor Augustus Rallos, and Assistant Prosecutors Jesus Ocdinaria and Ronald Yngson on Tuesday at the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas based in Cebu City.

He accused the three prosecutors of bungling the three drug cases involving five suspects by causing their dismissal.

The three also failed to elevate these cases to the Office of the Regional State Prosecutor for automatic review in gross violation of Department Circular No. 46 dated June 26, 2003.

The department circular mandates that all drug cases that have been dismissed by any prosecutor's office and wherein the possible penalty is life imprisonment to death should be elevated to the regional office in three days from the issuance of the resolution for automatic review.

Rallos, Ocdinaria and Yngson are also facing investigation filed by their colleagues at the Department of Justice for allegedly mishandling the drug cases assigned to them.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had ordered the three to go on leave pending investigation of these complaints.

"We have not received a copy of Balquin's complaints yet, this is another example of trial by publicity," said Rallos.

But he denied that they deliberately bungled five drug cases that had been dismissed at their level. He said he got so busy that he forgot about the department circular.

He, however, added that these cases were later forwarded to the Regional State Prosecutor's Office for review and that these were re-filed later.

In his complaints, Balquin said the three prosecutors caused the dismissal of three cases—all for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Law.

These cases involved suspected drug pushers Meniel Arquilo and brother Carmilo; Birvic Roland Canlas, Elmor Lucatin and Eduardo Ng.

Balquin said the court had ordered Yngson to conduct the preliminary investigation against the Arquillo brothers who were arrested in a police buy-bust operation on July 9, 2003.

ROUNDUP

Quake jolts Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—An Intensity 3 earthquake rattled this city on Wednesday afternoon but there were no reports of damages. Lawrence Arzeta, a science researcher of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the quake struck at 2:13 p.m. and was not felt in a wide area. The jolt lasted at least three seconds, according to the Office of Civil Defense. The city was hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on July 16, 1990, killing hundreds of residents and destroying buildings and roads.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Tornado' hits village

PARANG, Maguindanao—A freak tornado swept the island-village of Bongo here on Sunday and destroyed at least 50 houses. No one was killed but several other people had been wounded, according to Vice Mayor Adnan Biruar. Biruar said at least 300 families were also displaced. In South Cotabato, waist-deep flood brought by heavy rainfall, swept some parts of the province and destroyed a still undetermined amount of crops, according to officials.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Court clears TV show host

BACOLOD CITY—A Regional Trial Court here cleared a broadcaster of rape charges after the prosecution failed to prove his guilt beyond reasonable doubt. "The scanty evidence of the prosecution [has] cast serious doubts on the guilt of the accused," Judge Anastacio Rufon said in his decision on July 21. Franklin Villanueva, a TV talk show host on SBN Cable TV, was charged with rape on Oct. 31, 2001 for allegedly molesting his 16-year-old house help in September 2000 and threatening to kill her if she told anyone.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Teacher nabbed for drugs

LUCENA CITY—Police on Saturday arrested a retired elementary schoolteacher suspected of being a drug pusher, in Barangay Puri, San Antonio, Quezon. The suspect, Manolo Umali, 60, was cornered by the raiding team inside his bathroom. Also arrested were Romulo Mendoza, suspected buyer of illegal drugs, and Nemesio Uri, "runner" of Umali. The lawmen recovered from the suspects 35 grams of suspected shabu, P50,000 in cash, two 9mm pistols and more than 100 rounds of ammunition. The suspect was arrested by virtue of a search warrant issued by Judge Cesar Mangrubang of the Regional Trial Court Branch 22 in Imus, Cavite.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Townsfolk plant trees

GENERAL NAKAR, Quezon—Local government employees, students, non-government organizations, the religious, police and military participated in a tree-planting here on Thursday dubbed as the Agos River Buffer Zone Project. Mayor Hernando Avellaneda said they planted some 5,000 mahogany and fruit-bearing trees. Before the end of the year, they plan to plant 100,000 trees along the Agos River bank. Avellaneda said that with the killer floods and landslides that visited the town last year, they were now embarking on a major program that would provide safeguards around the town perimeter.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 deacons to be ordained

SAN PABLO CITY—Don Bosco Bishop Leo Drona of the Diocese of San Pablo will ordain two deacons in separate dates and locations in Laguna while five theology graduates are preparing to be deacons. To be ordained priest for the Diocese of San Pablo today at the 432-year-old St. Bartholomew Parish Church in Nagcarlan, Laguna is Rev. Gomer Torres, who finished college at St. Peter's College Seminary and theology at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City. Also to be ordained priest is Rev. Nolasco Jovilla, a deacon of the Comboni Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, on Aug. 8 at the 432-year-old St. Gregory the Great Church in Majayjay, Laguna.

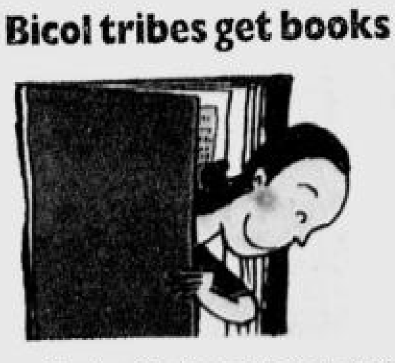
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Search on for top scientists

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD) yesterday announced the start of the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Award for Aquatic Technology Enterprise. In a statement, Dr. Rafael Guerrero, PCAMRD director, said the award would be given to the country's outstanding scientists in the field of fisheries and aquatic research "with entrepreneurial spirit." The winner will receive P1 million from the Department of Science and Technology and the office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., son of the late Philippine president after whom the award was named. Nomination forms for the award are available from the PCAMRD office (telefax 049-536-1582).

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bicol tribes get books



IRIGA CITY—At least 1,000 indigenous people in Bicol will be given free educational and learning materials by the National Commission on Indigenous People. NCIP regional director Lee Arroyo said they started giving free books, science and nature textbooks, and English and Mathematics workbooks to indigenous people in Barangay Antipolo, Baao town in Camarines Sur on Monday. The free books were donations from the Sisters of the Poor congregation and the United States. Arroyo said they will continuously give free learning materials to the tribes people to improve their learning skills, literacy level and personality.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Janitor fish safe, says study

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD) has allayed fears of fishermen around the Laguna Lake that the janitor fish is perilous to other fish species in the lake.

The marine research unit of the Department of Science and Technology likewise said the fish species is safe for human consumption.

Dr. Rafael Guerrero III, PCAMRD executive director, said a recent study made by noted biologists showed that contrary to the common notion that the janitor fish has been feeding on fingerlings, the "bemustached" fish only feeds on algae, small worms and rotten fish feed.

"As far as we know, the [species of] janitor fish [found] in Laguna de Bay is not predaceous or carnivorous. In [its natural habitat], it is a bottom feeder and grazer," Guerrero told the INQUIRER.

He said the findings were part of a recent study by noted biologist Edna Agasen of the Department of Agriculture's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute and American Dr. Jonathan Armbruster, curator of fishes of the Auburn University in Alabama, the United States. The study, Guerrero said, also correctly identified the two janitor fish species in the country.

The *Pterygoplichthys pardalis* is found in the Marikina River and Lake Paitan in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija while the *Pterygoplichthys disjunctivus* thrives in Laguna Lake.

Guerrero said the study rectified the earlier identification of the fish, which was recognized as belonging to the *Plecostomus hypoglosus* species.

"Its rasping mouth simply makes it impossible for them to feed on other fish. It also has no teeth," he said, adding: "If it feeds on other fish species, then why are janitor fish commonly placed in aquariums together with smaller fishes?"

Guerrero said the species of the aquarium fish found in South America is also known to feed on insects and tadpoles "but not on other fishes."

Safe for humans

Guerrero likewise said that the janitor fish has been declared safe for human consumption by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

He said an LLDA study showed that the fish does not contain toxic levels of heavy metals.

Armbruster, he said, the janitor fish is usually eaten grilled and made into soup in most countries in South America.

Despite its possible practical use, Guerrero admitted that the janitor fish has remained a nuisance as it often damages fishnets where algae commonly grows.

The ballooning population of the aquarium fish along the Marikina River and Laguna Lake has alarmed several local government units in Rizal and Laguna as fishermen complained that the fish has caused a decline in their fish harvest.

Fishermen also blamed the janitor fish for destroying their fishnets, thus adding to their expenses.

The janitor fish, also called the "devil fish" because of its devil-like appearance, is an aquarium catfish from South America.

Guerrero said the population of the janitor fish also endangers the country's native and cultured fish species.

He said Armbruster observed that the janitor fish builds its "nest" in mud banks, which results in water turbidity.

"They may compete with other fishes feeding on algae and detritus (organic matter) on the bottom," he explained.

To contain its population, Dr. Armbruster suggests that the best way to reduce its population is by catching the adults through grill nets or traps at their nesting sites, he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

IN THE KNOW

JANITOR FISH is the name given by Filipino aquarium hobbyists to the Common Pleco or Plecostomus, a freshwater tropical fish belonging to the Armored Catfish family (Loricariidae). A native to South America, it was introduced in the Philippines by aquarium hobbyists in the last decade.

It is called janitor fish for it assiduously cleans the aquarium by eating algae growing on the edges. Its sucker-like mouth allows it to adhere to a surface, as well as to hold and rasp at food. These fish are sold when they are young and small but they can grow to around 50 cm.

Being nocturnal, they usually avoid light and like to hide in dark places, coming out to feed at night. They can tolerate a range of conditions. In their natural habitat, this species feeds on algae, aquatic weeds and other plant matter and small crustaceans.

According to the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, "Not valued as a food fish, the janitor fish however can be utilized as a fishmeal source."

55 fall ill to diarrhea; contaminated water blamed

BACACAY, Albay—A team of medical practitioners from the Albay Provincial Health Office sent to Cagraray Island here following a reported diarrhea outbreak that downed 55 residents blamed the disease on contaminated water.

Dr. Luis Mendoza, Albay provincial health officer who headed the group, conducted a surveillance in some villages having a high prevalence of the disease and learned that the villagers get drinking water from open deep wells.

Mendoza said at least 26 patients suffering from diarrhea were from Barangay Namanday while 29 others were from the neighboring village of Tambilagao.

The team conducted an information campaign among residents on how to prevent diarrhea. They also gave chlorine to some residents and taught them how to use it.

Mendoza took samples from the deep wells to find out if the diarrhea outbreak was caused by the water the residents here drink.

The outbreak was recorded to have started since July 4 and the first case happened in Barangay San Antonio Santicon in nearby Malilipot town.

San Antonio Santicon is also found on Cagraray Island. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Army trains Luisita workers to join Cafgu

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The military's Northern Luzon Command has begun training 176 residents in villages in Hacienda Luisita to become members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

The move came on the heels of an ongoing labor dispute in the sugar estate owned by the Cojuangco family.

The training is conducted by members of the Army's 70th Infantry Battalion and involves men from villages in Concepcion town and Tarlac City.

In a statement, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, Nolcom commander, said the "bold move" by these villagers would protect them from the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing the New People's Army.

The Cafgu recruits, Tolentino said, would "thwart enemy efforts to forcibly recruit more people to their cause and thereby establish barrio revolutionary committee."

Military officials had maintained that the Hacienda Luisita strike was led by the CPP and the NPA.

The striking workers, however, denied this.

The training comes as workers of the sugar estate and mill at the Cojuangco family-owned Hacienda Luisita welcomed reports that the government would likely junk the controversial stock distribution option (SDO), an official of a workers' union there said.

Romeo Sarate, a director of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), said members of the Task Force Luisita formed by the Department of Land Reform visited the estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino and interviewed the workers.

"They saw how our lives and working conditions have turned miserable because of the SDO," Sarate told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

During two referendums in 1989, 96 percent of the almost 6,000 farmers in Hacienda Luisita voted for the SDO instead of their actual acquisition of lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ERIK ARAZAS/PDI PHOTO

ANGER is brought from Luisita to Ayala during a rally against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Museum workers pulled out from park

By Tina G. Santos

ENVIRONMENT advocates may soon find themselves back in fighting form after the excavation work of National Museum workers ended last week at the controversial Arroceros Forest Park in Manila.

This means that the City Hall workers may take over the area anytime soon to proceed with the construction of the two-story teachers' building. Environmentalists and Manila teachers are locked in a legal battle over the park.

The Manila government earlier agreed to stop construction work on a teachers' building inside the park to give way to archaeologists to inspect and retrieve artifacts found in the area. However, the city government and museum officials had also agreed that construction work would proceed once the archaeologists' work is over. The park had been declared an archaeological site by the National Museum in April 2003.

Archaeologists earlier found hundreds of items, mostly earthenware, porcelain shards and bricks, and iron objects such as old nails and Chinese coins, said Regina Paterno, president of Winner Foundation which has been taking care of the site.

Paterno's group had been opposing the construction of the building inside the park, saying the move would result in disturbing a historical site and the destruction of trees and lush foliage inside what it called Manila's "last lung."

Mandaluyong teenager takes fatal walk to freedom

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FREEDOM came with a price for this young man.

Jonathan Diasanta, 19, was reported missing five days ago and was allegedly last seen being escorted by a policeman out of the Mandaluyong City Jail in Mandaluyong City.

His parents searched for their missing son for several days, but the quest lead them to a funeral parlor in Taytay, Rizal, the other night.

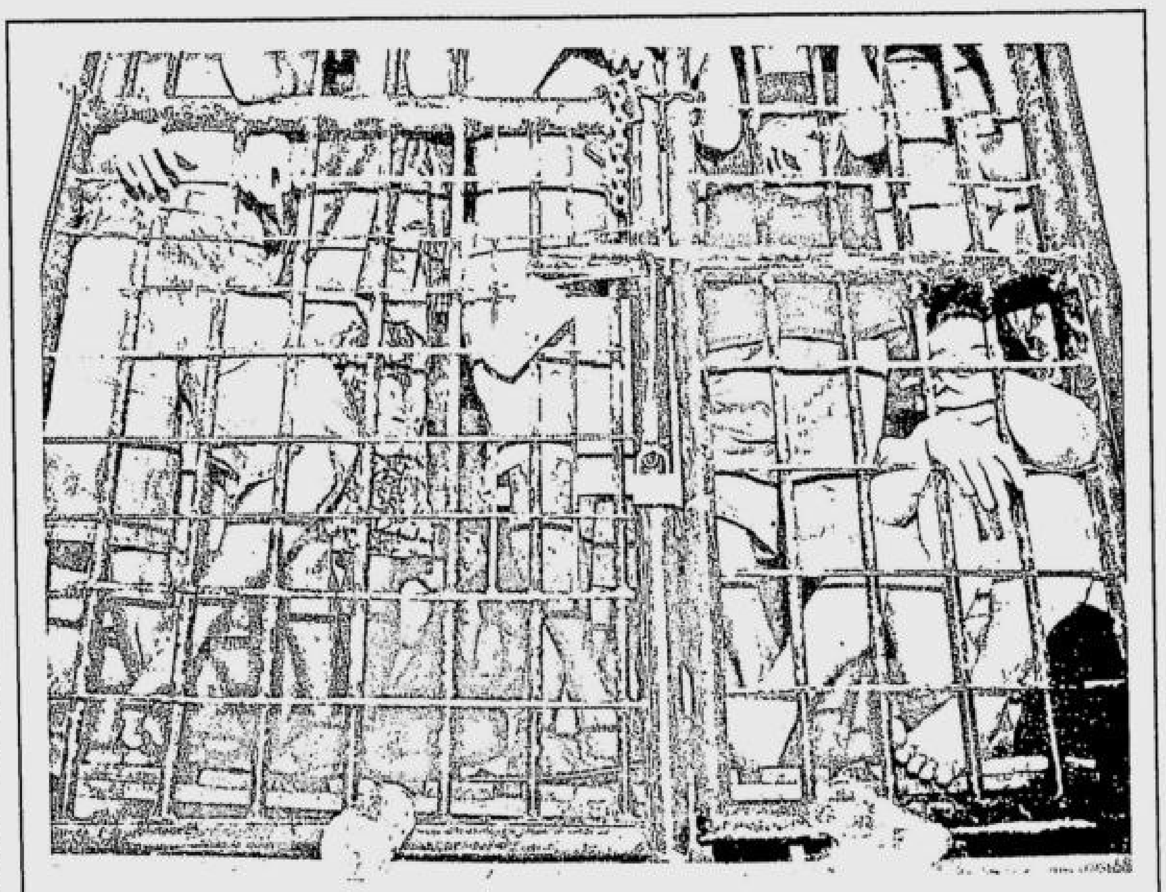
Diasanta died of a gunshot wound at the back of his head, Taytay police chief Jaime Piloneo told the INQUIRER.

The victim's parents has filed abduction charges against the policemen who arrested him in Mandaluyong City on Friday evening. In the incident report about the arrest, the Mandaluyong City Police said Diasanta was "brought in for record and verification purposes."

But Mandaluyong City police chief Ericson Velasquez said they were set to amend the charges against the policemen to include homicide. The victim was arrested about 8 p.m. Friday in front of the Star Mall Commercial Complex on Shaw Boulevard. He was freed hours later early Saturday morning and was escorted by PO1 Francisco Castillo and three others. That was the last time Diasanta was seen alive. Hours later, his body was found in a dump on Bangyad Road, Barangay San Juan, Taytay about 5:30 a.m.

Apart from Castillo, PO1 Jocelyn Samson of the Mandaluyong City Police Women and Children's Desk, Insp. Amor Cerillo of the Eastern Police District Mobile Force and a certain Lanie were also included in the complaint.

Traffic lights tapped for electricity?



STANDING ROOM ONLY

This fellow on the right was able to pick a spot before others could beat him to it. But his companions were not as lucky during their stay inside this cramped Manila police detention cell. REM ZAMORA

By Tarra V. Quismundo

COULD the metro's traffic lights be the latest source of tapped electricity?

To answer this question, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has formed a team that would check whether or not those in the business of making illegal connections have found new sources in electric lines powering traffic lights at some of the metro's intersections.

Puzzled by the unsteady power consumption of traffic lights at given locations, the Traffic Engineering Center (TEC) Maintenance Division of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC) assembled a team of electrical engineers that would look at the possibility of illegal connections riding on agency-owned electric lines.

"There could be a possibility that some of our traffic lines were tapped, especially those near squatter areas, because electricity bills at some intersections suddenly increased while the traffic lights registered a steady consumption," said TOC chief Ramon Ona. MMDA-maintained traffic lights consumed an average of P2,000 worth of power monthly, said Ona. But reports had reached his office that in some areas, bills surged to almost double this amount.

The agency has been paying the electricity bills for traffic lights in some 427 intersections all over Metro Manila. Each intersection has a separate power meter, which records the power consumption of between four to eight individual traffic lights.

And how can the agency detect the illegal connections? The TOC said it had a surefire and practical way to do so.

"I told the team to go to a suspected intersection at nighttime when there isn't too much traffic, and turn off the traffic lights' power switch," Ona told the INQUIRER. "When there is a power outage in nearby households, and there are complaints, then that would show that the houses are connected to our line." Leaving this suspicion unchecked could place these households at constant risk of current overload, he added.

The TEC will coordinate its power connection checks with Manila Electric Co. electricians adept at detecting tapped lines, according to Ona.

Aid pours in for Taguig fire victims

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A DAY after fire hit Maharlika Village in Taguig City, help and assistance for about 600 affected families started pouring in.

Bags of relief goods were distributed yesterday at the Blue Mosque and the Silangan Elementary School, where Tuesday's fire victims were temporarily housed, said barangay watchman Badria Aquino.

Aquino also said more help would be arriving in the coming days.

The night after the fire, victims were immediately sent dinner packs by the city's Office of the Social Welfare Development.

Meanwhile, April Al-Rashid, head of the city government satellite office for FTI, Upper Bicutan and Maharlika said she received pledges of help for the victims from Couples of Christ-Taguig, Rotary Club of Makati-Dasmarinas, Carl Duisberg Association of the Philippines and the Pakistan Women's Association.

Rashid has prepared a census of affected families to make sure that donations will reach them.

Aquino said the victims needed clothes, cooking utensils, sleeping mats and blankets.

"They may have clothes to wear and food to eat but they have no homes," she said.

Meanwhile, Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga yesterday vowed to rebuild the lives of the homeless families, assuring the residents that he would bring back the glory of Barangay Maharlika, said Public Information Officer Ana Santos.

Santos said the mayor was coordinating with Gawad Kalinga, the social arm of Couples for Christ, as well as foreign embassies for a shelter program for the fire victims.

"From ashes, we will clean up the place and build a model Muslim community. We will also revitalize Maharlika as a whole by turning it into a trade and tourism center," Tinga said.

Santos added that the local government would build a three-story Trade Bazaar on the grounds of Maharlika Village.

Burglars leave 'evidence' behind after office break-in

By DJ Yap

BURGLARS who broke into the office of a human rights nongovernment organization (NGO) in Quezon City before dawn yesterday might have left behind evidence to pin them down: blood containing identifiable DNA.

Police said whoever smashed the glass door of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center at 53-B Maliksi St., Barangay Pinyahan could have hurt him/herself, and left what looked like bloodstains on the floor. The intruders were believed to have entered the office between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m., and carted away two computer sets worth P55,000, a printer worth P7,000, and petty cash amounting to P5,316.75, PHRIC officer-in-charge Bernardo Larin told police.

Dark maroon stains were found near the door, which police said could be blood from one of the burglars, who remained unidentified. Kamuning police station commander Alfred Corpus said investigators had already talked to a witness who might be able to pinpoint the suspects. The supposed bloodstains could prove helpful in identifying them, he said. PO1 Donald Mendoza, crime scene investigator, said they had taken samples of the suspected blood for examination.

However, he added that he could not be sure if the stains were actually blood, or for that matter, human blood. "For all we know, it could just be the blood of a cat," he said.

Why there is dissatisfaction in the AFP

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CHIEF of a military counter-intelligence unit has admitted that there was grumbling among young officers, but it was not enough to lead to another mutiny.

Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFPCIG), said the dissatisfaction should not be cause for concern.

Pangilinan said the dissatisfaction does not stem from the political situation, like "Gloriagate," because the young don't understand politics.

"We have our own problems to deal with in the Armed Forces," said Pangilinan, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1984.

Pangilinan's AFPCIG monitors reports of destabilization plots and corruption within the military.

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, revived the AFPCIG and dumped the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Reports say Abu revived the unit because the ISAFP had become too independent a military unit and had allegedly gone out of the control of the military leadership.

* * *

Let's tackle first things first.

It's true young military officers, from lieutenants to captains, don't care about politics. They leave the political bickerings to their commander-in-chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who's a politician.

What these young, idealistic officers care about is the corruption they see among their superiors, the generals and full colonels.

They don't understand why generals and colonels are able to build mansions, buy luxury cars, send their children to schools in the US, travel abroad with their families, and deposit large amounts in local and foreign banks.

The young officers who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) were taught "courage, integrity, loyalty" by their alma mater. In fact, that's the PMA motto.

They ask if there is integrity in the multimillion-peso renovation of the sidewalk in Camp Aguinaldo and the construction of a vacation house in Boracay when soldiers die in the battlefields because of lack of medicines?

Most of the generals and senior colonels these young idealistic officers are supposed to emulate are corrupt themselves. Weren't these generals and senior colonels also taught integrity at the PMA?

The young officers see that generals and colonels had forgotten the foot soldier who does the fighting for them. The young officers are the ones in direct contact with the foot soldiers because they're the soldiers' direct superiors.

They sympathize with the foot soldier because they're always with them. The generals and colonels are ensconced in air-conditioned offices in the camps far away from the battlefield.

* * *

Why did General Abu revive the AFPCIG when ISAFP could do the job?

Because Abu and the ISAFP chief, Brig. Gen. Marlo Quevedo, are not on speaking terms. Their animosity dates back to the time when both were still with the Philippine Army.

This goes to show that Abu doesn't have what it takes to be a good leader. A good leader doesn't quarrel with his subordinates in much the same way a father doesn't quarrel with his son.

Abu's quarrel with Quevedo has affected the operational capability of the ISAFP. The AFP chief doesn't give extra funds to the ISAFP for use in its intelligence job.

* * *

Most military officers are counting the days when Abu will finally retire in the middle of August.

They can't stand Abu's style of leadership.

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4 in Caloocan household killed in rob

AN INVESTIGATOR makes his way to where the bodies of the four victims in the Caloocan City killing were found. JOAN BONDOC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A BUSINESSMAN and three other members of his household, including his 12-year-old daughter, were killed inside their house in Caloocan City early evening Tuesday by still unidentified assailants.

Police identified the victims as Andrew Luis Arcega Villa, 40, owner of Global Heavy Equipment; his girlfriend Joy Cambongga, 19; his daughter Yvanna Faye Villa, 12; and their housemaid Fely Omblero, 40

Villa, police said, traded in heavy equipment parts. He had a store along 5th Avenue also in the city.

Investigators said the victims' bodies were found in different parts of their two-story house at 111 4th Street corner 12th Avenue Barangay 92.

Police said the girl, who had the most number of stab wounds, was dragged from the sala and left beside the dining table. She had 27 stab wounds mostly in the neck.

Villa had 23 stab wounds and was disemboweled. His body was found beside that of Cam, who had ten stab wounds.

The maid who was found with 13 knife wounds was found near the kitchen.

Police said the fatal wounds were those inflicted on the victims' necks.

The killers made sure that Villa and his housemates were dead, said city police chief Supt. Leo Garra, who stressed that the killing was done by several attackers.

Garra said robbery was the "obvious" motive for the attack.

He added that the victims could have known the assailants.

According to police, the house was in disarray and Scene of the Crime Operatives found only a dollar and a few coins during an inventory done in the presence of Villa's sister Josephine and her husband.

Piggybank not spared

"All cash and valuables were taken. Even the piggbank was not spared, " Garra said.

Police are looking for a certain Junito Espinosa, 30, and a native of Zamboanga City. He was one of the Villa family's helpers.

Espinosa, who was also called "Tyson," was seen inside the Villas' rented house on the night of the incident.

Another employee of Villa, Dave Caco, 21, said it was about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday when he handed to Espinosa a plastic bag of pork barbecue which their employer had asked him to buy.

According to Caco, he gave the barbecue to Espinosa through a half-open gate.

The bag of barbecue was found untouched on top of a table on the patio after the victims' bodies were discovered at about noon yesterday.

Caco said Villa had allowed his employees to go to his house to eat dinner after store hours.

House abandoned

Police went to Espinosa's house in Caloocan City but he and his family had reportedly abandoned it.

Mayor Enrico Echeverri is offering P50,000 as a reward to anyone who could give information on the whereabouts of Espinosa.

Police said the massacre was reported to them by Rexilon Navarro, a worker of Villa's sister.

"He was asked to climb the gate to be able to enter the house after no one from the household answered their calls," police said.

A neighbor, Theresa Salonga, told police that the television set of the Villas was unusually loud starting Tuesday night.

"It was so loud I had to raise the volume of my TV to be able understand what I was watching," the neighbor said.

She added that from the time she went to sleep up to the time she woke up at about 5 a.m., the victims' TV was playing loudly.

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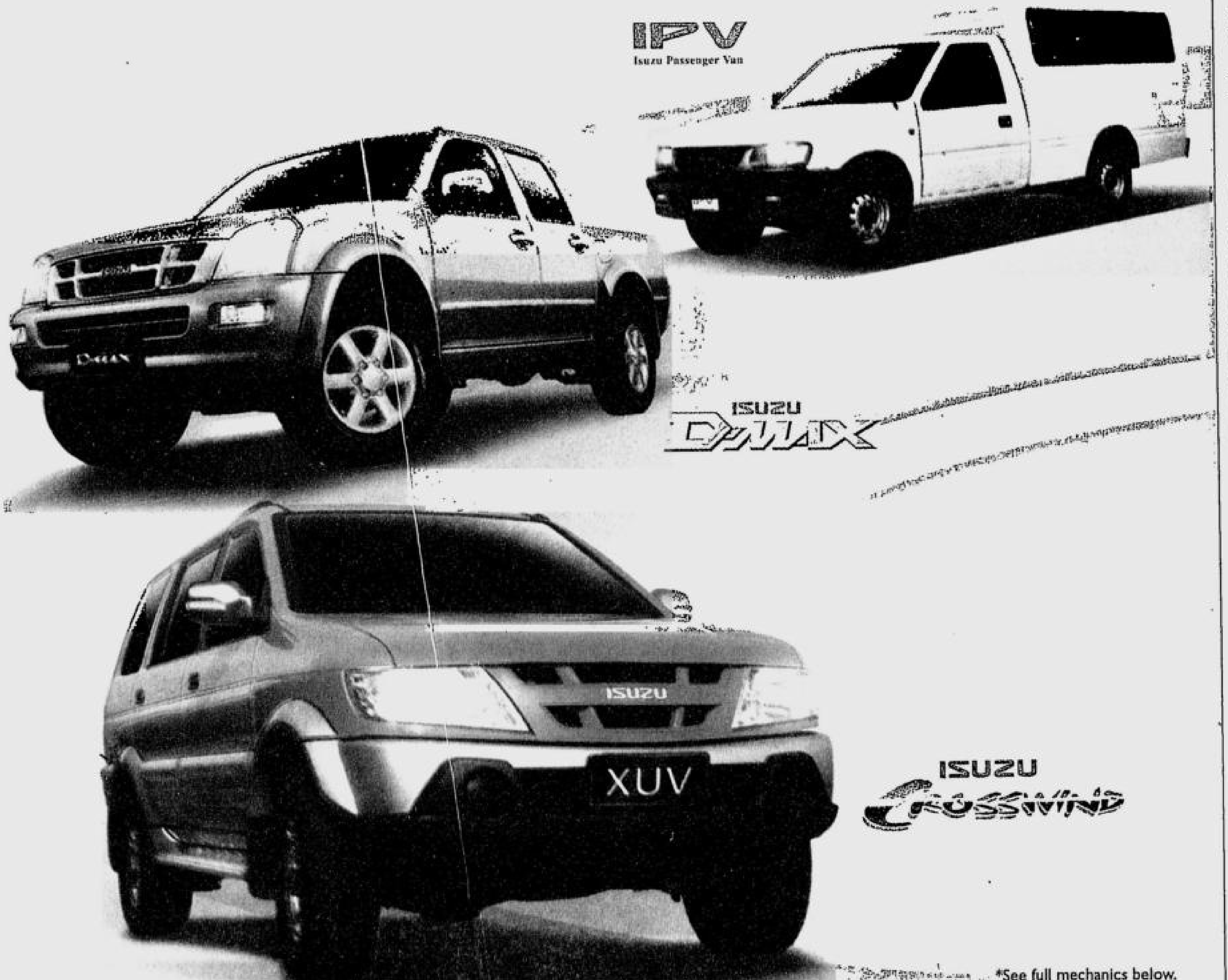

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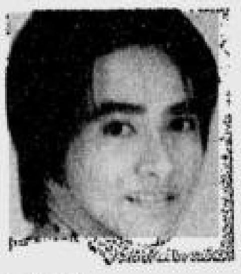

HERO

ABS-CBN talent Hero Angeles has dismissed the claim of fellow talent, showbiz columnist Cristy Fermin, that a series of articles she had written about him was mere "brotherly advice." In his reply submitted to the Pasig City Prosecutors Office, Angeles insisted that the articles of Fermin "were written solely ... [to discredit] us by maliciously attacking our gender, our character our integrity and our love for our own family." Hero also said Fermin abused her freedom to express herself. *Edson Tandoc*

What's in a name?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A HOTEL and a restaurant chain are in a tug-of-war over the name "Maxim's." Manila Midtown has lodged a complaint in the Quezon City Prosecutors Office for trademark infringement against the owners of Maxim's Tea House. Midtown said its pastry shop and restaurant had exclusive rights to the name "Maxim's." Named respondents in the complaint were Jocelyn Poon and four other executives of Ashley Roma Foods Corp., Maxim's Tea House chair owner. The INQUIRER tried to reach Poon for comment, but her assistant Eva Magbanua said she was out of the country. None of the other executives were available for comment. *DJ Yap*

NBI seizes fake lighters

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation confiscated P2.1-million worth of fake Cricket lighters in Manila. The NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division raided several offices in Binondo and Tondo starting early this month following the complaint of Swedish Match Phils Inc., the local distributor of the lighter brand. The NBI seized 94,500 units of counterfeit lighters Tuesday. Distributors of fake Cricket lighters face trademark infringement and unfair competition charges. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

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BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League; 8 a.m. (r-11 p.m.); Solar Sports – Dallas takes on Sacramento.

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Knights nip Dolphins in OT, sweep round

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LETRAN Knights completed a 7-0 sweep of the NCAA basketball tournament's first round by stunning the defending champion Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 70-64, in overtime yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Proving their resiliency down the stretch, the Knights outplayed the favored Dolphins in the extra period after forging the extension at 62-all on an undergoal stab by Erick Rodriguez with 12.3 seconds left.

"I just asked them for three defensive stops and they were able to do it," said coach Louie Alas after the Knights held the Dolphins to only two points in the extra period.

"I had a good feeling in overtime. We had fresh legs, we were able to rotate our personnel well."

Senior forward Aaron Aban finished with 17 points, 11 rebounds and four steals and JP Alcaraz fired six of his 12 in the extra period for the Knights, who dealt the Dolphins their first loss in seven games.

In another tight contest, the Mapua Cardinals turned to reserve Neil Pascual to slip past the St. Benilde Blazers, 66-64.

Left unguarded at the low post, Pascual nailed his only basket in the final 1.3 seconds to lead the Cardinals to solo third at 5-2.

Rookie guard Kelvin dela Peña, who dished the assist to Pascual, scored a team-high 17 points on top of seven rebounds, six assists and four steals.

"I knew that Kelvin will take control of the game, he's a very good passer," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

The Blazers joined the San Sebastian Stags at fourth place with 3-4 records.

Before Rodriguez's game-tying basket, momentum seemed to be on the Dolphins' side when Gabby Espinas' low-post basket lifted the Dolphins, 62-60, with 49 seconds remaining in regulation.

Robert Sanz tried to win it for the Dolphins in regulation but missed a triple in the closing seconds.

The Dolphins rallied behind Ramon Retaga and Carlos Cecilia to turn the Knights' 42-29 bulge to a slim four-point deficit, 54-50, by the end of the third period.

LETRAN'S defense, anchored on big man Mark Andaya (left), makes life difficult for Gabriel Espinas' (middle) and the PCU Dolphins. RYAN LIM

Sustaining their offensive outburst, the Dolphins capped the run with Joel Solis' 15-foot jumper to wrest the lead, 60-59, at the 2:02 mark in the fourth quarter.

Rodriguez's split free throws knotted the contest, 60-60, with 1:47 remaining..

In junior play, the Squires improved to 5-1 after routing the Baby Dolphins, 85-63. Lucas Tagarda led with 25 points, while rookie Darrell Green delivered 22 points and 17 rebounds.

The varsity scores:

First Game

LETRAN 70—Aban 17, Aldave 12, Alcaraz 12, Andaya 12, Rodriguez 9, Bautista 6, Anabo 2, Mondragon 0, Quinday 0, Piñera 0, Balneg 0.

PCU 64—Retaga 15, Solis 11, Castro 9, Sanz 9, Cecilia 9, Espinas 8, Santos 2, Belga 1, Amparado 0, Garrido 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 32-28, 54-50, 62-62, 70-64 (OT)

Second Game

MAPUA 66—Dela Peña 17, Veranga 14, Tiongco 11, Gonzales 8, Del Rosario 3, Pascual 2, Sumalindog 0, Co 0, Gorospe 0, Salud 0, Malgapo 0, Mazo 0.

ST. BENILDE 64—Orbeta 23, Sagad 20, Urra 7, Morial 5, Layug 4, Porras 3, Aldover 2, Good 0, Cabatu 0, Manding 0, Robles 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 34-32, 45-40, 66-64

Aussie five snaps RP win streak

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A bunch of teenagers from Australia held RP-San Miguel in check all game using a stifling full-court press Wednesday and dealt the Filipinos a first loss in the 27th Jones Cup basketball championships.

The Aussies tugged at RP-SMB's coattails all game before going for the kill at the right time, winning for the first time in five games at the expense of the more experienced pros, 80-76, at the Taipei Physical Education College gym here.

"We deserve to lose. No excuses," said RP coach Chot Reyes, whose wards dropped out of the lead at 4-1. "We were outplayed and out-hustled out there. We did not have the energy to match their quickness."

Guard Ryan Kersten and swingman Stephen Weigh hit crucial baskets in the crunch as the cagers from Down Under recorded the first true upset in the 10-nation event that will have more bearing on the Filipinos later on.

Tournament format calls for all teams to play a single round elimination with the top team winning the championship outright.

The loss could be galling in the end for the Filipinos, with the bulk of the better teams in the field scheduled in the last three days for them.

As it is, the United States and Russia are the only unbeaten squads left after five days with the Filipinos and Chinese-Taipei behind with identical 4-1 records.

The Filipinos clash with Japan at noon today, needing no less than a sweep of their remaining four assignments to have a mathematical chance at winning this tournament.

Kersten, a 6-foot-1 off-guard, scored six of his total in the fourth period, including a layup that finished a 2-on-1 break with 2:57 left that gave the Aussies a 73-68 advantage.

The biggest lead that the Philippines took was six, 55-49, at the 2:43 mark of the third after Dennis Miranda, who arrived with Jondan Salvador early in the day as last-minute reinforcements, split his free throws off a Zachary Natoli foul.

But the Australians patiently bid their time and did not give the Philippines room to relax with a defensive blanket that met RP-SMB up high right from the opening tip.

"I think the key was that we stuck to our game plan, and that is to press them the whole game," said Australian head coach Martin Clarke.

"It's not bad ain't it, beating pros," said 6-foot-10 Aron Baynes, an 18-year-old senior who could pass for a clone of former Barangay Ginebra and Sta. Lucia import Ryan Fletcher and who more than held his own in the shaded lane with 13 points, eight rebounds and two blocks.

Spotty officiating was also present, with a Chinese-Taipei official calling the game for the first time in a Philippine game partly deciding the outcome.

Kersten finished with 21 points to lead the Aussies while Romel Adducul led RP-San Miguel with 15.

The scores:

AIS-AUSTRALIA 80—Kersten 21, Mills 14, Baynes 13, Dowde 6, Ingles 6, Ogilvy 5, Mo 3, Wit 2, Natoli 0, Deric 0.

RP-SAN MIGUEL 76—Adducul 15, Taulava 14, Helterbrand 14, Dela Cruz 11, Williams 6, Hontiveros 5, Salvador 4, Raymundo 4, Miranda 3, De Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 20-23, 38-39, 55-58, 80-76.

Biggest SEAG Filipino roster up; PBFI gets nod of Olympic body

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AS EXPECTED of the host country, the Philippines will be fielding the biggest delegation of close to 900 athletes in the Southeast Asian Games it will host for the third time this November.

The Philippine Olympic Committee approved 892 athletes during its general assembly meeting yesterday with the final lineup to be announced on Sept. 15. The deadline for submission of entries for the 10 other countries is set on Oct. 27.

So far, there are 7,665 athletes and officials entered for the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 event scheduled in Metro Manila and four other provincial venues. At stake are 441 gold medals in 41 sports disciplines.

At the same time, the POC unanimously accepted the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. as the national governing body for the sport even as it rejected with finality the appeal of the banned Basketball Association of the Philippines.

But the PBFI membership came with a condition that it gets official recognition from the International Basketball Federation (Fiba), which had recently suspended the country following the expulsion of the BAP from the local Olympic roster.

The new cage body is headed by Mauricio (Moying) Martelino, a former secretary-general of the Asian Basketball Confederation and longtime sec-gen when BAP was under Lito Puyat, a two-time Fiba president.

The number of RP entries was way beyond the so-called "Golden 500," refers to the athletes who readily surpassed the SEAG criteria of at least a silver medal performance during the 2003 SEAG.

Officials said it was natural for the host country to field the largest contingent not only to boost its medal campaign but give its young talents a taste of international competition.

The Philippine Sports Commission, tasked to oversee the training of the SEAG-bound athletes, had no comment on the bloated lineup which will enjoy funding from the First Gentleman's Foundation through money raised by the godfather scheme.

With about 800 athletes in 1991, the Philippines finished a close second behind Indonesia in the gold medal race (92-91) when it last hosted the SEAG.

Dominated by Indonesia and Thailand in the past, the biennial event became the domain of the host country in its last two stagings with Malaysia and Vietnam pulling off the trick in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

Shooters set sights on 10 golds

THE NATIONAL shooting team is hoping to win no less than 10 gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games this November.

Philippine National Shooting Association president Art Macapagal said he is confident of winning even more during the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games with the addition of practical shooting, which stakes four golds.

"We are competing for gold medals in more than 10 events," said Macapagal, who expects to finalize the national team roster after the ongoing tryouts at the Marine Shooting Range in Fort Bonifacio.

With 10 golds, shooting contributed heavily along with swimming, track and field and boxing, in the country's explosive show in 1991 where it lost the overall title to Indonesia by just one gold.

Two years ago in Vietnam, though, the Philippines won only two of the more than 40 gold medals staked in shooting, with Vietnam getting the lion's share en route to taking the overall crown.

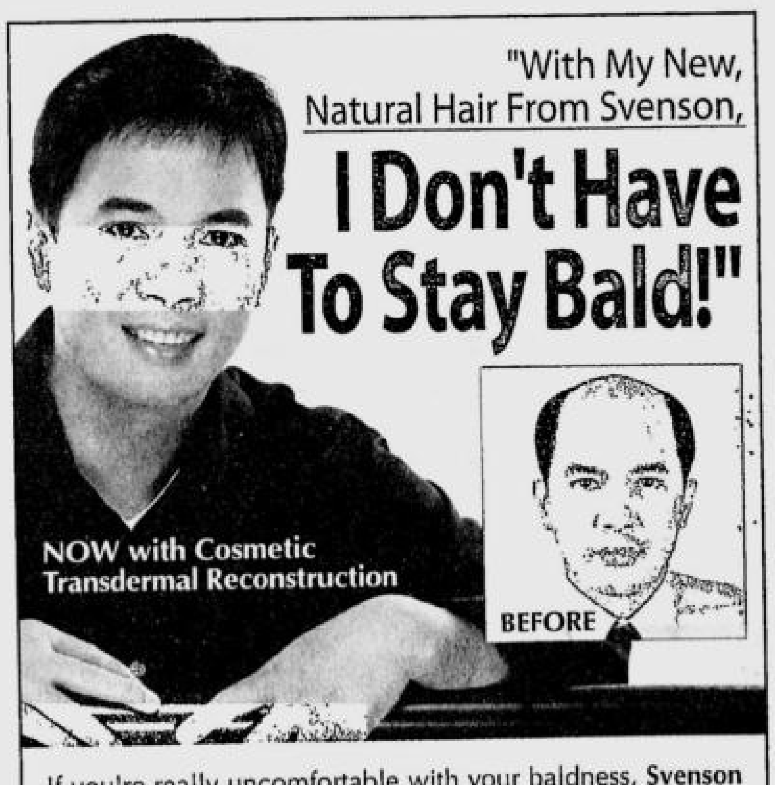
This early, veteran internationalist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla is already assured of a slot in the national team along with six other shooters.

The 40-year-old Padilla easily surpassed the standards set by the PNSA in rapid fire, center fire and standard pistol.

Also gaining berths are Carolino Gonzales (free/air pistol), Emerito Concepcion (air rifle), Susan Aguado (sport pistol), Rachel Marie Capili (women's air rifle), Josephine Gay Corral and Aimee Gana (women's trap).

Padilla, Concepcion and Jose Ramon Corral were also named captains of the pistol, rifle and shotgun squads, respectively.

Fourteen other shooters, including Athens Olympian Jethro Dionisio and veterans Eric Ang and Jaime Recio, will bid for slots in trap, skeet and free rifle prone. *Marc Anthony Reyes*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SMC-Sen. Lim women's basketball, volley tourney opens

DAVAO CITY – Six women's basketball teams and six volleyball teams from this bustling city get to strut their stuff when the 1st San Miguel Corporation-Sen. Alfredo S. Lim Women's Basketball and Volleyball Championship gets underway today at the Almendras Gym and the University of Mindanao Gym here.

The three-day tournament, sponsored by San Miguel Corp. and named in honor of Senator Lim, will be ushered in by a brief but colorful opening ceremony featuring the traditional parade of players from the participating teams at 9 a.m.

Expected to attend the opening rites are Senator Lim, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Niño M. Dela Cruz, grandson of Senator Lim and chair of the organizing Philippine Schools Athletic Association (PSAA), Roland S. Lim, PSAA president, Davao City Sports Director Bong Go and other local and sports officials.

Today's schedule in basketball pits Moby Hotdog-Assumption of Davao College against Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao (Main) at 9 a.m., to be followed by the game between Magnolia Nutri-Oil-Rizal Memorial College and Cali-UM (Tagum).

The two other teams, San Mig Coffee-Ateneo de Davao and the Purefoods Supremo-University of Southern Philippines, will clash at noon.

In volleyball, powerhouse Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao (Main) begins its title campaign against Purefoods Supremo-Agro Industrial Foundation College at 9 a.m., while Magnolia Nutri-Oil-Holy Cross of Davao takes on Cali-Davao Doctors College at 10 a.m. Moby Hotdog-Jose Maria College and San Mig Coffee-University of Mindanao (Tagum) tests each other's mettle at 11 a.m.

Basketball games will be played at the Almendras Gym while volleyball games will be held at the UM Gym in Bolton, Davao City.

Tournament format is single round robin for both basketball and volleyball, with the top two teams after the eliminations clashing for the championship on Saturday, July 30. Tournament commissioner is Xavier Elicay.

Tams eye No. 5 versus Bulldogs; La Salle-UST up

THE FAR Eastern U Tamaraws know that they're a marked team.

Now shooting for their fifth straight win, the pressure remains for the Tamaraws even when they battle the lightweight National U Bulldogs in the UAAP basketball tournament at 2 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's hard when the players become overconfident," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "We have to continue doing the same things. We always have to be ready."

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	4	0
UE	3	1
UP	3	1
Adamson	2	2
Ateneo	2	2
La Salle	2	2
UST	0	4
NU	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
10 a.m.—NU vs FEU (Jrs)
12 p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs FEU (Srs)
4p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Srs)

The La Salle Archers also hope to stay on the winning track when they clash against the University of Santo Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m.

"We're still there with our defense, we're holding down our opponents below 60 points," said coach Franz Pumaren as his defending champions gun for their first back-to-back victories.

Meanwhile, the UAAP technical committee led by Ricky Palou has decided not to suspend Ateneo forward Doug Kramer and NU starter Edwin Asoro.

Asoro and Kramer were given a "strong reprimand"instead, after getting ejected for figuring in a heated tussle in their game last Sunday.

The seasoned Tamaraws remain heavily favored even if Asoro delivered a breakout performance with 18 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks against the Eagles.

The Tamaraws, who have won all their games in double-digit margins, have yet to face a real threat.

The 2004 runners-up boast of the tournament's most formidable lineup led by reigning Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos and a more assertive Mark Isip.

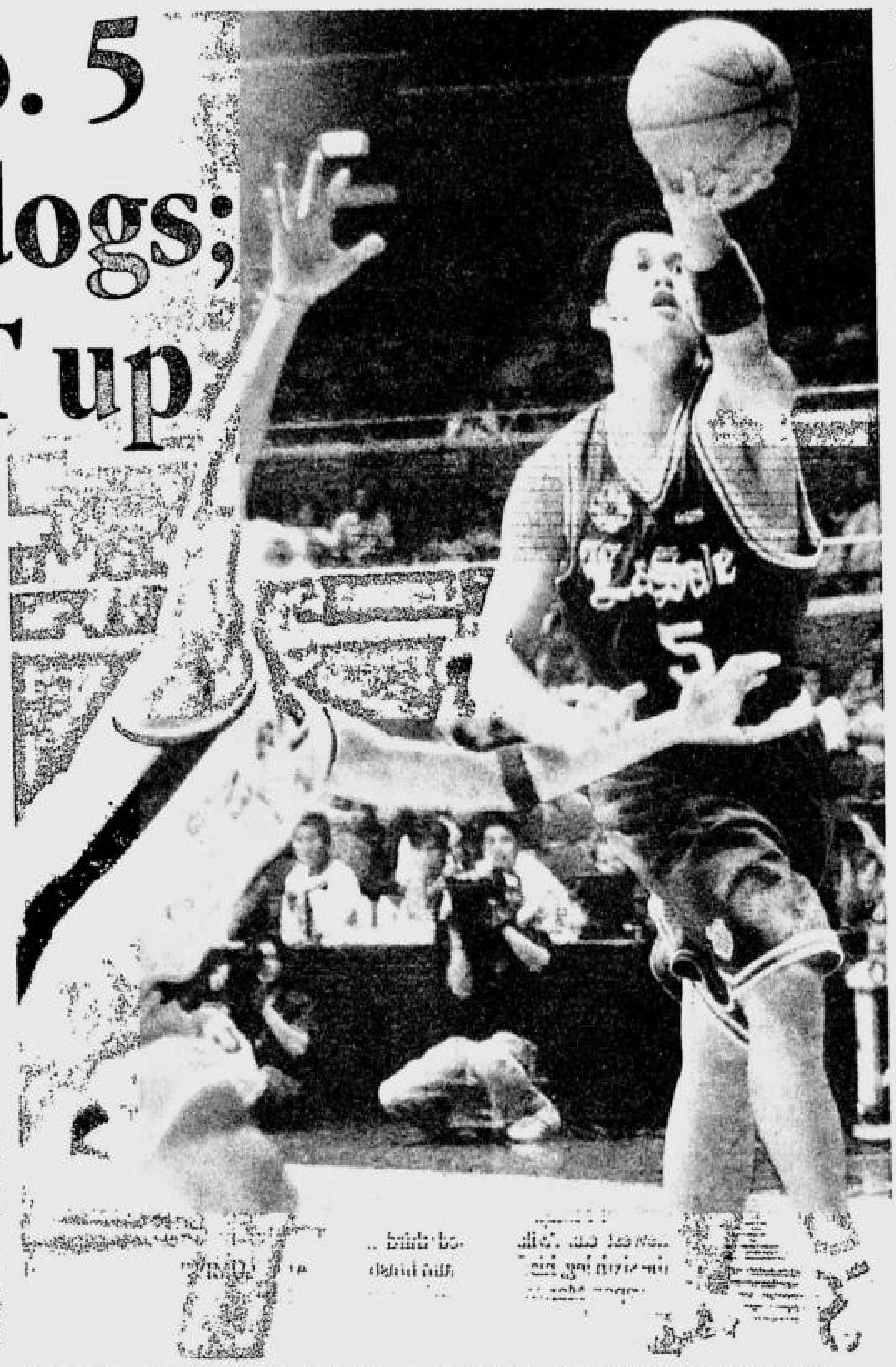
The Archers, who downed the Tamaraws, 2 games to 1, in the Finals last season, are working on a similarly aggressive stance.

"It's a matter of execution and having that killer instinct," said Pumaren. "When everything's okay, we should add more rather than coast along. It's about playing consistently. We have a tendency to slack off."

The Archers were stung early in the season by two straight shockers against the University of the Philippines Maroons and the University of the East Warriors.

They almost faltered again versus Adamson last Saturday before senior point guard TY Tang buried a clutch three-pointer in the last 53 seconds for a 65-58 win.

Jasmine W. Payo



JUN JUN Cabatu (right) of La Salle drives against National University's Jonathan Jahnke during their UAAP tussle recently. The Archers tackle the UST Tigers today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lady Falcons stun Archers for 2nd win

THE ADAMSON Lady Falcons flashed their renewed strength by stunning defending champion La Salle Lady Archers in the UAAP women's volleyball action Sunday at the University of the Philippines gym in Diliman.

The Lady Falcons repulsed the listless Lady Archers, 25-20, 25-23, 13-25, 20-25, 15-13, in one hour and 11-minutes, to improve to 2-0.

The University of the Philippines Lady Maroons also moved up to 2-0 after shocking the favored University of Santo Tomas Lady Tigers, 25-22, 25-16, 10-25, 17-25, 15-10.

The Lady Tigers, runners-up last season, are reeling from the departure of their senior spikers.

La Salle and UST fell to 0-2.

Joining UP and UST on top are the University of the East Red Skirts and the Far Eastern Lady Tamaraws.

UE thwarted the Ateneo Lady Eagles, 25-18, 25-22, 23-25, 26-24, while FEU downed National U, 25-6, 25-15, 25-11.

In the men's division, defending titlist FEU and UP remain unbeaten in two games.

FEU triumphed over Adamson, 25-19, 14-25, 25-18, 20-25, 16-14, while UP subdued UE, 25-20, 25-22, 25-18.

In other games, UST edged Ateneo, 25-10, 25-15, 25-8, and La Salle halted NU, 25-23, 25-22, 25-22.

In women's basketball, Adamson remained on track of their title defense after routing UE, 79-42, at the Adamson University gym on San Marcelino.

Merenciana Arayi topscored with 21 points and hauled down 12 rebounds.

Jenalyn Constantino added 15 points and Uniza Cenita contributed 12 for the Lady Falcons.

Ateneo, last year's runner-up, slipped past FEU, 41-38, with Stephanie Lee Villanueva shooting 13 and Christine Chua 10 for the Lady Eagles.

UP won by default over La Salle for a 2-0 record.

Meanwhile, the men's basketball games on Aug. 4 and 6 have been moved from the Blue Eagle Gym to the Araneta Coliseum.

Tam leading FedEx coach candidate

FEDEX need not look elsewhere to find a new Philippine Basketball Association coach.

A highly placed source in the FedEx camp said former RP Youth coach Johnny Tam has emerged as one of the leading candidates for the coaching job vacated recently by resigned mentor Bong Ramos.

The same source said Tam, who has guided FedEx to several international championships, fits the description of the coach who can "fully implement the management's policy of using all 12 players in the game and applying pressure defense all the way."

Tam has been a loyal adherent of the same policy even during his early days as coach of the RP-Burlington Youth team and all the other FedEx-supported teams to major international competitions.

In a statement released to the media immediately after Ramos tendered his resignation, FedEx/Air 21 president Lito Alvarez said "management is now looking to find a coach who can implement the team's policies by heart."

Tam is no stranger to the FedEx system, which he implemented even during his stint as coach of the Laguna Lakers in the defunct MBA (Metropolitan Basketball Association).

As head coach, Tam steered the FedEx-supported national teams to back-to-back titles in the Cheng Zhenggong Cup international invitational basketball tournaments held in Nanan, China, in 1999 and 2003.

In 2003, Tam's FedEx-RP team rallied from a huge 21-point fourth-quarter deficit to turn back Hong Kong and capture the title in the prestigious tournament held every four years.

Tam is also the only Filipino coach to bag a title in the Super Kung Sheung Invitational basketball championships in Hong Kong when he guided the Rommel Adducul-led team to the title over the Mainland China-reinforced Hong Kong side in 2002.

Tam also led FedEx-RP to fourth place in the 2001 William Jones Cup in Taipei.

Other names reportedly being considered by FedEx management are Loreto Tolentino, who steered the PCU Dolphins and the UM Hawks to the NCAA and the NAASCU titles last year; Caloy Garcia, who led Welcoat Paints to several PBL titles, Bo Perasol, who served as assistant coach of Ramos during his six-month tenure, and Shell assistant coach Dayong Mendoza.

16 squads prepare for Streetball finals

SIXTEEN teams which survived the grueling four-month long nationwide eliminations brace for the ultimate showdown for street basketball supremacy when the national finals of the adidas Streetball Challenge is played beginning Saturday (July 30) at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

Slots in the adidas Asian Streetball finals, which the country is hosting in September, are at stake in the event ending Sunday with San Beda College and West Negros College of Bacolod fancied to dispute the seniors crown. Pampanga's Holy Angel University and Bgy. MA-A of Team Davao are also expected to come out strong in the centerpiece division of the event sponsored by adidas. Hostilities start at 9 a.m. with PBA and UAAP stars expected to grace the event.

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Cuban boxing coach Liranza coming Aug. 9

RAUL Fernandez Liranza, the Cuban coach credited for the silver medal finish of Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, will be back next month after finishing all his commitments with the Cuban Boxing Team.

Liranza, who is expected to arrive on Aug. 9, will reinforce the national coaching staff in preparing the Filipino boxers in their quest for the overall title in the event in the Southeast Asian Games set Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 in Bacolod City.

"We have been expecting him since late June but two prior commitments with the Cuban government as well as the flight schedule prevented him from coming in earlier," Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) president Manny T. Lopez said.

Lopez said that Liranza is ending his stint with the Cuban national team participating in an international tournament of Carabobo Festival in Caracas, Venezuela. Prior to this Liranza was also tapped by his government to head the Cuban delegation to the World Cup held in Russia.

According to Lopez, Liranza, being a very efficient national coachand credited for 2 out of 6 gold medals of Cuba in the Athens Olympics, had a hard time getting permission from the Cuban government to take a leave to train and coach the Philippine boxing team.

SPORTSWATCH

ABC Sports to telecast RP 5 games

ABC Sports will telecast all the games of the Philippine team in the Global Hoops Summit (Las Vegas) and the R. William Jones Cup (Taipei). Viewers will see the national team against top teams on the following dates: Global Hoops Coverage 27 July (Wednesday), 7 p.m.; 29 July (Friday), 4:30 - 9:30 p.m.; 31 July (Sunday), 4- 9 p.m.; 03 August (Wednesday), 4:30 - 9:30 p.m.Jones Cup Coverage 4 August (Thursday), 4:30 - 9:30pm; 7 August (Sunday), 4 - 9 p.m.; 10 August (Wednesday), 4:30 - 9:30pm; 12 August (Friday), 4:30 - 9:30 p.m. 14 August (Sunday), 4 - 9 p.m.

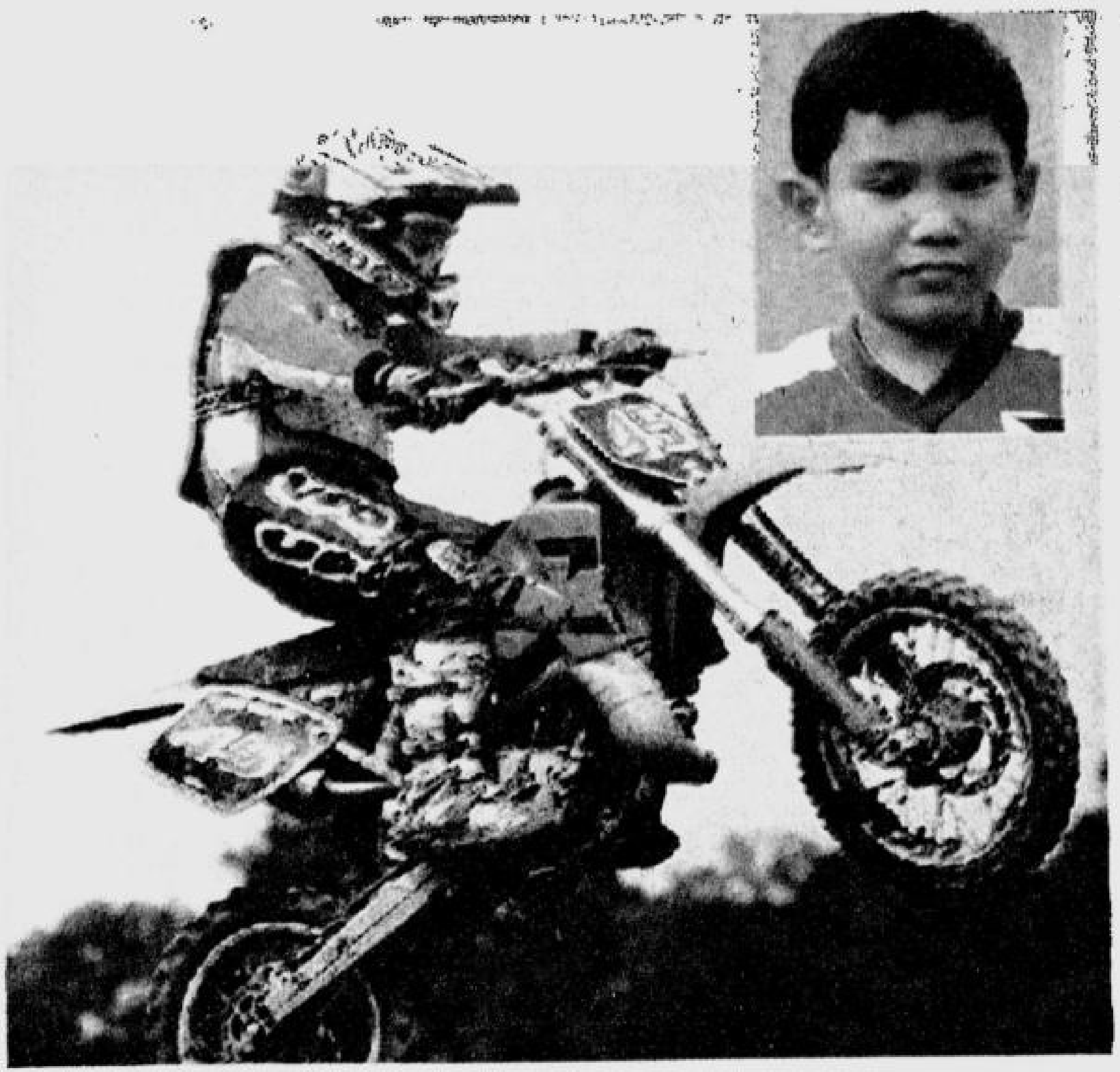
Racela, Blue Eagles on Halikinu Radio

RACELA

ON this week's edition of Halikinu Radio, Olsen Racela talks about San Miguel's recent championship in the PBA Fiesta Conference while Ateneo rookies Emman Nazareno and Zion Latterre discuss the Blue Eagles' campaign in UAAP Season 68. Halikinu Radio, hosted by sportscaster Mico Halili, airs every Friday 9 p.m. on NU 107 FM and is co-presented by Smart Buddy Prepaid and PLDT MyDSL. For everything blue, plug into Halikinu.

Roligon hosts 4- cock derby Aug. 1

MORE than 100 big time fights are on top on Monday, Aug. 1 as Roligon Mega Cockpit presents the "Abot Kaya 4 – Cock Derby", with a guaranteed prize of P450,000. Promoter Rolly Ligon will again be assisted by popular llamadores Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Submission of weights is on Sunday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 851 -2275, 833- 1638 and 852- 9812 for details. Meanwhile, the "Smalltime Sa Taglugon 3 – Cock Derby" slated on Aug. 15 and 17 is starting to draw the attention of cockers and breeders due to its unique format. For a low entry fee of P3,300, the total guaranteed prize is P600,000. A bonus of P2,000 per win await participants plus the P15,000 for the fastest win on Aug. 15 and P30,000 for fastest win on Aug. 17. The 1- cock elimination round is set on Aug. 15 and the 2- cock finals on Aug. 17.



SUPER KID FLIES HIGH
Rafael "Raprap" Enriquez, the super kid of motocross, swept the two motos to emerge overall champion in the 65cc (12-under) category of the Ultimate Red Horse/Smart Buddy Motocross Championship in Batangas City. The 9-year-old honor student from Lourdes School-QC defended two holeshot starts to the finish line despite a recurring engine failure. Enriquez is sponsored by Dickies, Seaport Royale, Cabalen Restaurant, Ecosystems Int'l and Access Plus.

Manila's Smile heads Juvenile stakes hopefuls

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

AFTER the heated battle among 3-year-olds in the Triple Crown series came to a close last Sunday, horse racing action now shifts to a promising horde of newcomers competing in this year's Juvenile Championships.

This early, Manila's Smile and Pechanga are the names eliciting oohs and ahs with the way they're building up preparation for their respective 2-year-old bracket assignments.

Manilas's Smile resumed his winning ways last Saturday by flexing his might in the Class Division and humbling the touted Amazing Firenze, making him the pre-race top pick in the Colts Stakes.

On the other hand, Pechanga served notice of her prowess by ruling her sweepstakes debut then merited another look in an allowance race last Sunday where she romped past nine rivals. That made her the horse to beat in the Fillies Stakes.

A total of 15 entries were nominated to see action in the Colts Stakes and Fillies Stakes which will kick off the 2005 Juvenile Championships on Aug. 7 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. Each race carries a total pot of P1 million.

But Manila's Smile, a son of Manila's Finest out of Wink and Smile, and Pechanga, a daughter of Heza Gone West out of Flying Angel, may find the going rough come raceday.

Also nominated in the Colts Stakes are Don Exequiel, Dixie the Younger, Golden Number, Key Element, Million Dollar and Prince Aidan.

Looming as major threats to Manila's Smile's bid to cart away the P600,000 first prize are Hermie Esguerra's Don Exequiel and the Trillana Stable's Dixie the Younger.

Dixie the Younger (Khozaam-Dixie Cup) had an equally impressive sweepstakes debut but his warmup to the event somewhat cooled off when Don Exequiel (Bench Mark-Belle Epoque) humbled him in wire-to-wire fashion during an allowance meeting last July 22.

Listed as Pechanga's early challengers are Kaligatan, Candu, Erica's Talent, Inca, Jet Sutter, Kat's Magic and Straight Free.

Because she has the speed to baffle Pechanga, Kaligatan (Bite the Bullet-Kayumanggi), another Esguerra entry, may turn out to be a strong contender to bag the similar P600,000-winner's bounty, as well as Straight Free and Erica's Talent.

Antonio Alcasid Jr., who currently owns the hottest hands in stakes races, will most likely keep the ride on Pechanga. Jeffrey Ladiana is expected to be tapped back aboard Manila's Smile.

Chair Jimmy Dilag of the sponsoring Philracom said he expects this year's Juvenile races to be as action-packed as the previous stagings.

Meanwhile, the Alcasid-powered victory by Real Spicy in the Horseman's Cup last Sunday enabled Esguerra to claim the winningest owner title for the racing week July 19-24 with five first placers, while Klub Don Juan director Marlon Cunanan wound up a close second with four.

Esguerra also scored through Scud Missile, a comebacking galloper steered by "El Maestro" Jesus Guce; Don Exequiel and Euro Bucks, both ridden by Jesus's son, Jesse.

Cunanan leaned on Valid Hazm (twice), Gonfalon Story and Amazing Firenze, and could have tied Esguerra had Pyramid Relaunch parried Lord Brian's upset axe.

AF3 organizers eyeing expanded 2006 circuit

ALTHOUGH there are still four legs left in this year's Asian Formula Three series, organizers are already laying down the groundwork for an expanded circuit next year that will see the competing drivers battling it out in three races per leg.

"The cars will complete similar mileage to 2005 but the drivers and spectators will have the benefit of an additional event," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Pena. "We believe AF3 represents incredible value for money and this will be further improved next year with an 18-race series."

Like this year, each leg next year will consist of three, 30 minute-practice sessions on Thursday and Friday but the Saturday program will change from a 30-minute practice and 30-minute qualifying session to qualifying and the first race of the weekend.

Sunday will feature 15-minute warm up followed by two races.

Two races per leg are being held this year in the nation-hopping series that already had completed two stops at the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong, China.

MIKOLA

The seventh and eighth stops of the series will be held on Aug. 20-21 at the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia, the home course of circuit leader Ananda Mikola. The Indon, carrying the colors of Fastron Racing with Threebond, leads the series with 95 points built around four first place finishes.

He leads defending AF3 champion Christian Jones of Australia by 33 points, with James Winslow of Great Britain, buoyed by a victory in the sixth leg in Zhuhai, moving up to third with 55 points, relegating erstwhile third placer John O'Hara of Ireland to fourth with 47 points.

Jones, of Christian Jones Motorsport, is set to test drive for two days this week at the Sentul Circuit to prepare for the Aug. 20-21 leg. The Australian didn't race in the last two legs in Zhuhai to enable Rodolfo Avila of Macau to drive the team's newest car. Avila finished third in the sixth leg, his first podium finish.

Pepon Marave, Winslow's teammate with Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, is the highest-placed Filipino driver in the series with 40 points, good for fifth place, followed by fellow Filipinos Dado Pena of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia with 37 points and Tyson Sy of Speedtech Asia with 36.

Mikola's half-brother, Moreno Soeprapto of Denso Hanjin Joson F3, leads the promotions class for cars with chassis built in 1999 and below, with 75 points so far. Greg Murphy of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia is three points behind in second, while Irishman Lee Farrell of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO is in third with 55 points.

Indon badminton doubles stars sent to psychologist

KUALA LUMPUR—The national number one men's doubles pair of Chan Chong Ming-Koo Kien Keat will have to mend their differences ahead of the World Badminton Championships, which will be played in Anaheim, California, from Aug 15-21.

Just two weeks into the job as the coach of the men's doubles players, Indonesian Rexy Mainaky said that the lack of communication was affecting their performance as a pair in international tournaments.

And he has made an arrangement for Chong Ming and Kien Keat to meet a psychologist at the National Sports Institute (NSI) in Bukit Jalil.

"Their relationship on court is not good. Chong Ming is not confident with Kien Keat and vice versa," said Rexy after a training session at the Juara Stadium in Bukit Kiara here on Monday.

"This is affecting their own self-belief. Negative thoughts are hampering their progress.

"We have about two weeks to the World Championships and we hope the meeting with the psychologist will do them good."

Chong Ming-Kien Keat are the highest ranked of the four Malaysian pairs for the World Championships and they are expected to be seeded at number eight. The others are Ong Soon Hock-Tan Bin Shen, Mohd Fairuzizuan Mohd Tazari-Lin Woon Fui and Choong Tan Fook-Chew Choon Eng.

Chong Ming-Kien Keat enjoyed mixed fortunes since they forged a partnership after the Athens Olympics last August.

They did well in the first three tournaments—China Open (quarter-finals), Singapore Open (semi-finals) and Taiwan Open (champions). After that, they crashed out in early rounds and their best achievement thus far was in the recent Malaysian Open where they lost in the quarter-finals.

Chong Ming was also carrying a nagging shoulder injury and his partnership with Kien Keat struggled to live up to the high expectations the country had on them.

The Star/Asia News Network

So boosts World Youth Chess drive

STREAKING Filipino Fide Master Wesley So bested Kazakhstan's Nazar Ospanov in the eighth round Monday night to boost his chances in the 2005 World Youth Chess Championships in Belfort, France.

So's fourth straight victory boosted his total to 6.5 points, good for a share of second to fifth places in the boys' 12-under category which drew 125 players.

Indian Srinath Narayanan was alone at the top with 7.5 points, a full point up on So, Russian FM Sanan Sjugirov, Chinese Yifan Hou and Indian VAV Rajesh.

With still three rounds to go, the 12-year-old So, a grade six student of St. Francis of Assisi in Bacoor, Cavite, is poised to improve on his 13th place finish in the 2004 edition of the tournament held in Crete, Greece. He posted 7.5 points then.

So, accompanied by his father William, is the lone Philippine entry in the annual event this year.

Living up to his growing reputation, So beat Aleksander Dimovski in Round One and Vitaly Meribanov in Round Two before being held to a draw by American Ray Robson in Round Three.

Polish Michal Matuszewski stalled So in Round Four, but the gifted child bounced back with victories over Bahruz Rzayev (Round Five), Robert Aghasaryan (Round Six), Illya Nyzhnyk (Round Seven) and Ospanov.

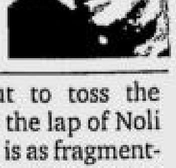
So, who has an Elo of 2165, is slated to meet Sjugirov (Elo 2358) in Round Nine set Tuesday night. *Roy Luarca*

FIGHTING MAROONS

3-POINT SHOOT-OUT
Accel held its 3-point Shoot-Out Challenge at the UP Diliman College of Human Kinetics Gym recently. Arvin Braganza emerged champion. Joining him in the Accel 3-Point Shoot-Out Challenge national finals is V. Karlo Dalisay. The other UP finalists received their prizes from Sporteum Philippines Inc. president Willie Ortiz, who was joined by coach Kiko Diaz of UP.

A kingdom on the brink

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

SUDDENLY, evaluating the performance of the PBA commissioner has become a big deal.

I say, why the big fuss over it?

In the first place, is there really a need for it?

What I know is, it's always been the commissioner himself who evaluates himself. He should be the first and last to know if it's time to throw in the towel.

The times, they are really changing?

Or have we stooped that low that even the one symbol of the league's staying power, if not might, could be so easily dragged into this millennium madness of virtually putting him to public trial?

Where have all the flowers of honor gone?

The gall of several PBA governors to openly say Commissioner Eala should be subjected to a performance audit. Ugh!

The idea in itself is already intrinsically degrading. What more with revealing to the public about this most sinister of all plans?

This was not what the founding fathers of the league had envisioned.

Let's resurrect Emerson Coseteng, please, so that order is restored in the league?

Will Leo Prieto come forward and read aloud the codeword on which the PBA had been carved on granite, which is that decency at all times should be the benchmark of the league's existence?

Or is dignity dead in the league?

Quick, play taps.

Stand in silence.

Show your last respects to honor.

Burial is near.

Whereas before, all governors of the league had this most cherished code of *omerta*, that we either sink or swim together, that we stick together through thick and thin, so that a silent ban on a player or a coach is carried all the way to the grave of any and all of the signatories to it.

Alas, that is not so anymore.

Today, we see some break their vows to put their interest above that of the league's, horrifically blinded by greed like wolves barnacled hopelessly to gluttony.

Cheers to those still adhering to the lionized Leo Prieto legacy of respecting the commissioner's office at all times, though the heavens fall!

Jeers to the few misguided elements out to inflict their divisive machinations, fed no less by patronizing forces with evil motives of their own!

The league, no doubt, has had its own slide but to toss the blame entirely on the lap of Noli Eala is a logic that is as fragmented and as twisted as Kris Aquino having caused the failure of James Yap to win this year's Rookie of the Year trophy.

Gone is the Leo Prieto era when Leo Prieto ruled the PBA like a king: His word was the law. Everybody, including all the governors, bowed to him, went to him for succor. If the league fell under his stewardship, he and he alone were to blame.

That monarchical-like setup disintegrated—unfortunately for the league—when Jun Bernardino, during the latter part of his reign, gave way to the loud banging on the door. Clipped of his powers, Bernardino would soon merely become a figurehead, a decoration if you will, of a kingdom that has lost its power and glory.

Seemingly, in the aftermath of that coup, a new era was born in which the boss, very much unlike the revered Leo Prieto, now has to rely on the say so of the governors before his move is considered official.

A complete reversal of roles, to put it bluntly.

That seems to be the tragedy inherited by Noli Eala.

Say it isn't so, Noli?

* * *

FASTBREAK. Don't miss attending the 19th National Coconut Week and the 4th National Coconut Festival on Aug. 24-28. Agriculture Secretary Ding Panganiban, a sportsman nonpareil who was manager/coach at one time of Purefoods in the PBA, will be at the forefront of this much-awaited event at the SM Megamall on Aug. 25-28. On Aug. 24, Panganiban will deliver the inspirational message at 10 a.m. at the Philcoa Auditorium in Diliman, Quezon City, signaling the start of the National Coweek. Silently working (again) from the sidelines to ensure the success of this momentous occasion is of course Carlos B. Carpio, chair of the steering committee of the National Coweek and PCA deputy administrator. Why this pitch for the coconut, the undying tree of life? Because next to beer, coco juice is my favorite drink.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Creamer, Wie lead teen charge in British Open

PAULA Creamer (left) and Michelle Wie have taken the spotlight from the world's No. 1 golfer, Annika Sorenstam.

SOUTHPORT, England—Call it the LPGA Teen Tour.

Paula Creamer, 18, is coming off her second win of the season, and 15-year-old amateur star Michelle Wie is looking to build on her third second-place finish of the year.

The Women's British Open could be set to crown its first teenage champion—unless, of course, 34-year-old Annika Sorenstam has something to say about it.

The world's best players have arrived at Royal Birkdale for the 30th British Open and fifth since it became a major on the LPGA Tour. Play begins Thursday on the 6,463-yard, par 72 course, which is also a regular venue for the men's British Open.

Sorenstam is out to win her third major of the year and 10th overall after victories at the Nabisco and LPGA championships. But the spotlight is also on the emerging stars, including Wie and Creamer—who are making their British Open debuts.

Creamer, already a winner of the Sybase Classic in her rookie season, won last week's Evian Masters in France by eight strokes. Wie tied for second, her third runner-up finish of the season.

Tour veteran Laura Davies estimated Wie would have won US$750,000 in her six events if she had been a pro.

Davies, winner of four majors among her 66 titles, says the emergence of so many young stars shows that women's golf is stronger than ever.

"It doesn't get much better," said Davies, whose only British Open title came 19 years ago—before Wie and Creamer were born.

"At the US Open, there was an 18-year-old, a 17-year-old, 15-year-old and I think another 17-year-old basically in contention, three out of four of them amateurs," Davies said. "Annika (Sorenstam) wasn't even in contention. And it had triple the (TV) ratings of the men's tournament that week."

Karen Stupples, who won last year's British Open for her first major in her sixth season as a pro, said the newcomers have the talent to make a big impact on the Royal Birkdale links.

"Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie are undoubtedly phenomenal talents," she said. "They are very fortunate that they are able to do it so young, to have the right coaching and right knowledge given to them at an early age.

"But it doesn't stop players like Laura, myself, Meg Mallon, Judy Inkster, Beth Daniel playing great golf as well."

Stupples, who stunned her rivals last year by starting her final round with an eagle and double eagle on two par-5s at Sunningdale, said experience could be vital in dealing with the tricky links course. Scores could go into the 80s if the wind blows. The forecast is for showers and thunderstorms.

"Sometimes it's just about survival, it doesn't have to be pretty golf but functional golf," Stupples said. *AP*

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Phelps cops 1st solo gold

US, Zimbabwe unveil new pool sensations

MONTREAL—Michael Phelps was slowly treading at one end of the pool, an arm draped across the lane rope as he stared at his name on the scoreboard.

Yep, it was the one on top.

Now that's more like it.

Phelps shook off the bitter disappointment of his first event at the World Swimming Championships with an emphatic victory in the 200-meter freestyle Tuesday night, holding off Australian Grant Hackett.

"Hopefully," Phelps said, "this race will help me continue on throughout the meet."

The 20-year-old American got off to a dismal start in Montreal, shockingly failing to qualify for the 400 free final. But he shared gold as part of a winning US relay team, and now he's got his first individual title of the championships.

Phelps is still on pace to match the seven medals he won at the 2003 worlds—his breakout performance—but he'll come up at least one short of his eight-medal haul at the Athens Olympics.

That's OK. His focus is squarely on 2008.

"It's all pretty much a learning process," Phelps said. "Hopefully, everything that happens now will help me leading up to Beijing."

Phelps hung on when South Africa's Ryk Neethling went out strong, seized the lead at the midway point under world-record pace and had enough left to get to the wall ahead of Hackett.

Phelps' time of 1:45.20 fell short of Ian Thorpe's 2001 record (1:44.06) but broke his American mark, set during a bronze-medal swim at the Olympics last summer.

The two guys who beat him in Athens, Thorpe and Pieter van den Hoogenband, skipped the worlds—their absence duly noted by Phelps.

"I'm sure, if they're like me, they're watching all the races and all the results," he said.

The Americans won three of five events on the third day of swimming, giving them six golds and 12 medals overall at the pool. Australia is second in the medal table: four golds and eight medals.

Another US teenager emerged as a star when 17-year-old Kate Ziegler swam to victory in the 1,500 free. But the stalwart of the women's team, five-time Olympic medalist Natalie Coughlin, was upset by Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry in the 100 backstroke.

Australia's Leisel Jones finally earned a long-denied victory in the 100 breaststroke. She beat 18-year-old American Jessica Hardy, who broke Jones' world record in the semifinals but settled for silver in the final.

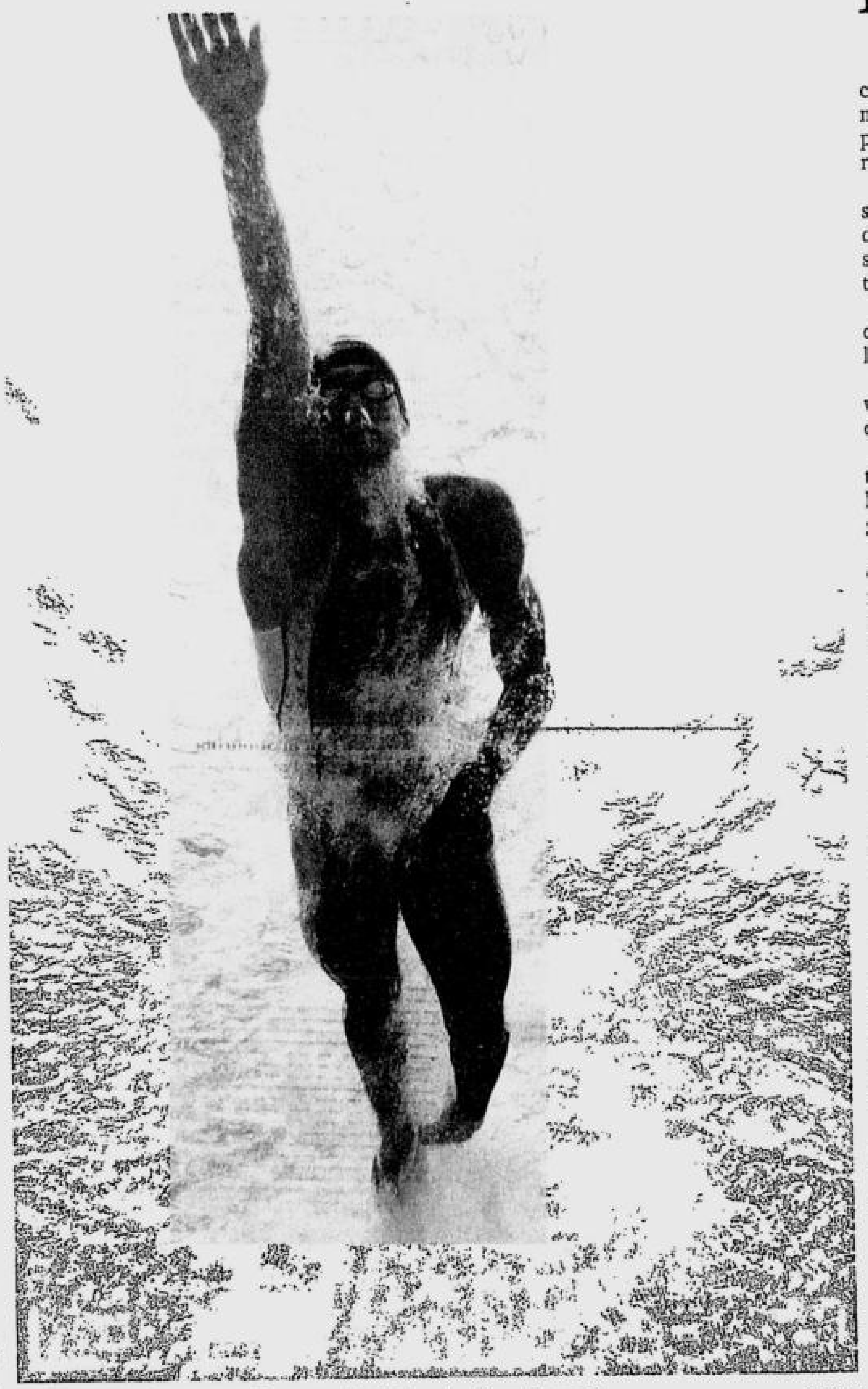
The third US victory of the night was totally expected.

World record holder and Olympic champion Aaron Peirsol continued his backstroke dominance with a victory in the 100. Randall Bal made it a 1-2 American finish by taking silver, the bronze going to Hungary's Laszio Cseh.

Ziegler followed the promising performances of Hardy and 16-year-old Katie Hoff by shaving nearly 11 seconds off her previous best in the 1,500.

Hardly. She won the longest event in the pool in 16:00.41 seconds—the third-fastest performance in history.

Coventry used a strong finishing kick to win in 1:00.24, while Germany's Antje Buschschulte took the silver in 1:00.84—outstretching Coughlin by four-hundredths of a second. *AP*



MICHAEL Phelps powers his way to the 200-meter freestyle gold. REUTERS

Brown set to coach New York

NEW YORK—Larry Brown has agreed to coach the New York Knicks in a deal that will make him the highest-paid coach in American pro sports history, the New York Daily News reported Wednesday.

The newspaper, citing multiple unnamed sources, said details would be finalized Wednesday to make Brown the National Basketball Association club's 22nd coach and the fourth for the Knicks in the past 19 months.

Brown would be in line for a five- or six-year deal worth between $50 million and $60 million, according to the report.

His task will be to turn around a team that went 33-49 last season and has not won a playoff series since 2000.

Brown, who turns 65 in September, guided the Detroit Pistons to the 2004 NBA title and into last month's NBA Finals before losing a seventh-game showdown to the San Antonio Spurs.

Hip surgery last November and a bladder condition that developed as a result caused Brown to miss 17 games last season and it is believed his inability to be certain of coaching full-time this coming season led to his dismissal by the Pistons. *AFP*

Maddux gets strike No. 3,000

CHICAGO—Chicago Cubs right-hander Greg Maddux became the 13th pitcher in Major League Baseball history to strike out 3,000 batters when he threw a called third strike past San Francisco's Omar Vizquel in the third inning Tuesday.

Maddux got Vizquel on a 2-2 pitch on the inside corner and the crowd at Wrigley Field that had waited out a 2-hour, 43-minute rain delay at the start, erupted. It was the final out of the inning.

Catcher Michael Barrett took the ball and put it in Maddux's glove as he crossed the third base line on the way to the dugout, and several of his teammates stopped to hug him and shake his hand.

Seconds later Maddux emerged from the dugout for a curtain call to acknowledge the loud cheering and doffed his cap. *AP*

Aussie star finally wins when it counts

MONTREAL—Leisel Jones won plenty of races—just not when it counted most.

Increasingly frustrated, she feuded with a teammate and heard plenty of doubts about her mental toughness.

No wonder Jones had such a satisfied look when she climbed to the top step on the podium—finally—at the World Swimming Championships.

"I do like to win and I've worked so hard," the 19-year-old Australian said Tuesday night. "I knew I was capable, but I guess I couldn't get it out. Winning today has proven I can do it, even under pressure."

Jones won the 100-meter breaststroke by holding off up-and-coming American Jessica Hardy, who took away the Aussie's world record just one night earlier in the semifinals.

Hardy's stunning performance in her first international meet raised the prospect of another disappointing close call for Jones. That was certainly on her mind when she went to bed Monday night.

"I had a pretty bad sleep," Jones admitted.

She had done it all before—four times a breaststroke runner-up at the Olympics and world championships, two other times a bronze medalist. Even though she's held world records in both the 100 and 200, her only victories in the sport's biggest meets came as part of Australia's powerful medley relay team.

Jones sulked on the medal stand after another disappointment at the Athens Olympics, dropped her coach at the end of last year and had a falling out with fellow Aussie Brooke Hanson.

She climbed atop the starting block in Montreal with plenty of baggage, though she tried not to look at it that way.

"I think it was lessons I needed to learn," Jones said. "I guess it was tough having the feeling that I kept choking. That was one of the things that hurt the most. I don't feel I was choking." *AP*

LEISEL Jones finally has a gold medal that matters. AFP

Swimmer brings hope amid strife

MONTREAL—With her country in sporting turmoil, Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry made sure there would be some good news to report by storming to world championship gold in the 100-meter backstroke on Tuesday.

On the same day the New Zealand Parliament passed a resolution calling for the cancellation of a cricket tour in Zimbabwe due to concerns over human rights abuses, Coventry provided a lift with her upset of American world record holder Natalie Coughlin.

Already a sporting heroine at home after scooping three medals at the Athens Olympics, Coventry steered clear of controversy, saying only that one day she hoped to be able to train in her own country.

"I'm very proud to represent Zimbabwe, for everyone back home it gives them a little hope, especially in sport," said Coventry, who lives and competes in the United States for Auburn University.

"I think it's exciting that we are showing people that you can do it, you might have to go and train somewhere else but we're still representing our countries and we still go home afterward and celebrate with them.

"We're doing it for them so hopefully one day we'll be able to swim in Zimbabwe without having to go other places."

Zimbabwe has been in political and economic turmoil since foreign and local monitors alleged President Robert Mugabe rigged his reelection in 2002 and was persecuting his opponents.

The European Union and the United States have imposed limited sanctions on Harare.

New Zealand is leading a drive to isolate the southern African nation in sport because of concerns over human rights abuses.

But following Coventry's triumph in Athens, the country briefly put aside their political differences, hailing the swimmer as a national heroine. *Reuters*

Agassi crushes opponent

LOS ANGELES—Andre Agassi played for the first time in two months Tuesday and rolled to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over unseeded Frenchman Jean-Rene Lisnard in the opening round of the Mercedes-Benz Cup.

Sidelined by a back injury since losing in the first round of the French Open in May, the 35-year-old Agassi covered the court well against his overmatched opponent, scurrying crosscourt several times to chase down shots.

Agassi took just 47 minutes to beat Lisnard, who lost in qualifying but was pulled into the field because of withdrawals.

"I was very happy with all aspects of my game," Agassi said. "I was expecting the nerves, which I did have, but nerves go away quickly when you get up two breaks immediately, which I did.

"I was expecting to make some bad decisions in shot selection, to be struggling a little bit. I was expecting to be sort of like a deer in the headlights and watch a few too long and not react as quickly as I knew I could have."

That didn't happen.

"Certainly to come out here for the first match in such a long time, I could never have expected or hoped for that standard and to be that comfortable early on," Agassi said. "I just settled in early. I felt like I was covering good court."

Defending champion Tommy Haas of Germany played for the first time since tearing a ligament in his right ankle at Wimbledon and also won in straight sets.

The fourth-seeded Haas was a 6-4, 6-4 winner over 6-foot-10 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia. Haas will meet Xavier Malisse in the second round. *AP*

Did James and Kris go out with Joey's kids?

GUESS LIST:

Guess who this female vocalist of a popular hip band is! She's bitter about her break-up with a former band mate, and he finally decided to leave the group since their failed romance was affecting their on-stage performance. The guy lamented: "When I bring my new girlfriend to watch our gigs, my ex (the vocalist) acts up. It has become difficult for the band to be in harmony. I tried to be civil with her but it didn't work, so I decided to leave." During the band's struggling years, the guy stuck it out with the group. And just when the band released its first album (which is a big hit) he had to quit. He sighed "I don't mind starting all over again with an unknown band rather than stick it out with my former band and endure her wrath." That's what I would call a (band's) bond turning into bondage!

Guess who this TV personality is! During the recent US tour of the TV station where she belongs, many reporters were turned off by her arrogance. She belittled the rival network's TV shows and claimed that her shows topped all ratings. But one local reporter snapped back at her "Sorry but we here in the West Coast are not familiar with your show at all." Serves her right 'huh? Having a dose of her own medicine is a bitter pill to swallow.

Heard that **Kris Aquino** and **James Yap** had dinner in San Francisco with **Joey Marquez's** daughters (**Jesm** and **JB**) whom Kris had grown really fond of. It's good to know that their bond remains intact even after her controversial liaison with Joey. I remember Jesm and JB as young kids who were always at my kids' parties. Jesm is an acronym for Joey Elizabeth Sario Marquez. JB stands for Joey and Beth. At the height of Joey's PBA career, he was living in with **Beth Sario** in San Juan. It was also the period when Joey was linked to so many women but Beth took it all in stride. At every game, he would usually have one girl in the upper box, one in the lower box and another one at ringside. Joey had the uncanny ability of escaping from all of them when he had to. Is it any coincidence that

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

James is touted to be PBA's resident playboy, very much like Joey during his basketball years? Does Kris really have a penchant for trying to cage cagers?

Will the indefatigable Tulfo brothers (**Mon, Erwin** and **Raffy**) soon have a daily talk show (6 to 6:30 p.m.) with **Rosanna Roces** on RPN 9? Osang is said to be *Tito* Mon's current squeeze. I cornered his son **Patrick** about it. He said: "My dad told me *Tito* Raffy paired them off during his birthday party. That's all but anything can happen, you know…" What a fearless pair! Who will tame who? (Just teasing, *Tito* Mon…)

Heard that some cable operators in the US wanted to require viewers to subscribe to ABS-CBN 2's The Filipino Channel (TFC) before they can have access to GMA 7's Pinoy TV. But of course GMA put their foot down! Is that why there was a hitch in the launching? The network war has gone global. Isn't it time the the rivals transcended their petty differences? With such a broad scope now, shouldn't narrow-minded concerns of both stations be junked already?

"Right to Royalty"

MORE artists have confirmed participation in MTV and VH1's "Right to Royalty" concert, to be presented by Hewlett-Packard tomorrow at The Fort Open Field. **Gary V** and **Kuh Ledesma** recently confirmed they would join the massive must-see show, together with Rivermaya, The Dawn, **Randy Santiago, Sarah Geronimo, Bayang Barrios** and **Mark Bautista**. Previously announced performers were: **Nina, Jay-R, Barbie Almalbis, Paolo Santos**, Side A, True Faith, Seven Shots of Wisdom, **Cynthia Alexander, Grace Nono**, Radha, **Noel Cabangon**, Makiling Ensemble, **Geneva Cruz**, and Pinikpikan. Also headlining the event is **KC Concepcion**, who will host alongside fellow MTV VJs **KC Montero, Cindy Kurleto** and **Marc Abaya**. "Right to Royalty" aims to celebrate original Pinoy music through this grand gathering featuring the top Filipino pop, R&B, ballad and rock artists of yesterday and today.

Lance and Light

FRESH from his modeling stint in LA, **Lance Raymundo** is back in the concert scene with a brand new album in the works under Viva Records, Lance celebrates the upcoming release by showcasing his new light-rock style in a solo concert at Dish (ABS-CBN Bldg.) 8:30 p.m. tonight. This show will also serve as the grand launch of his friendly network website, Sdolara.com.

Paging model wannabes

WHO will be the next Page model?

The search is on for fresh faces, male and female, ages 14 to 25, to represent Page in its fashion shows, Billboards, etc. Visit any Page boutique for details. Screening is on Aug. 1 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 108 Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Page just recently announced a model search, "Looking for Fresh Faces Ages 14-25."

For feedback e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaith-band.com

Ron Antonio at Music Museum

SHOW TIME

RON Antonio

RON Antonio is the former lead singer of the all-male vocal group Wiseguys, whose hits include "The First Tine I Saw You," "Fallen" and "Sabi Mo." As a solo act, his own hits are "One Hello" and "Isang Panaginip Lang," from his Ivory Records debut solo album.

He's done concerts here and abroad; performed in Suburbia, Hard Rock Café, Ratsky's and Virgin Café. He released his new CD earlier this month and is set to star in his first major concert entitled "Wiser" on Aug. 12 at the Music Museum. He will be backed up by his seven piece-band Ron Rocks Band and supported by close industry friends, including Nyoy Volante, Faith Cuneta, Miguel Aguila and Ella May Saison.

Call 824-1901.

Tonight

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Side A at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Maila Andres at the Pan Pacific Hotel

Silk at Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko

Dawn Bande at Quisine, 6750 Ayala Ave.; 7 p.m.

Tomorrow

Lance Raymundo in a solo concert at Dish, ABS-CBN, Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City; 8:30 p.m. Call 951-0493.

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Rueben Laurente of The CompanY at the Hard Rock Café

Kearney Street at Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko

Dawn Bande at Inihaw Republic, Katipunan Ave.; 9 p.m.

July 29

MTV Right to Royalty Concert at The Fort Open Field, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The concert will feature Apo Hiking Society, Kuh Ledesma, Nina, Joey Ayala, Paolo Santos, Side A, True Faith, Jay-R and many more.

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mwah! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Rhythm and Babes at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar, 10 p.m.

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Maila Andres at the Hyatt Hotel

K24/7 and Passage at Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko

Red Clay at Strumms Makati.

Blue Ketchup at Taste Buds, Robinson's Place Manila; 7 p.m.

Dawn Bande at Quisine, 6750 Ayala Ave.; 7 p.m.

July 30

McDonald's Grand Fun Day at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mwah! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Escape at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

WRR 101.9 Sayawars Mall Tour at Metropolis Star Alabang, 3 p.m.

Dawn Bande at the Monet Bar, Holiday Inn Hotel in Ortigas; 7:30 p.m.

July 31

Blakdyak Mall Tour at Starmall Edsa, 4 p.m.

Erik Santos promotes his album, "I'll Never Go" at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall

Dawn Bande at Bonfire Grille at Marikina Riverbanks Arcade; 8 p.m.

Aug. 1

Good Vibrations band and Miami Quarter at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

Aug. 2

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Marcy David Band at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

Aug. 3

Cool Change at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Aug. 4

Jeffrey Hidalgo at Metro Comedy Concert Bar along West Avenue, Quezon City

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah!. Call 535-7943.

Rhythm and Blue at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

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4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 SIX
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 WEDDING CRASHERS

MARKETHACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 THE ISLAND
3 RESERVED
4 EVIL DEAD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STEALTH
5 D' ANOTHERS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 HIBLA
4 (DTS) RING OF NIBELUNGS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STEALTH
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DTS) THE ISLAND
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 D' ANOTHERS

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2 THE ISLAND
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHER
6 STEALTH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DTS ES) THE ISLAND
4 MONSTER IN LAW

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 D' ANOTHER
2 MONSTER IN LAW
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY)
2 RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 D' ANOTHER
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2

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P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 THE ISLAND, FANTASTIC 4 & STEALTH
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
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STEALTH
12:40/2:30/3:10/5:00/5:40/7:30/8:10/10:00
WEDDING CRASHERS
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
IF ONLY
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
D' ANOTHERS
THE MACHINIST
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
STEALTH
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE ISLAND
1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① D' ANOTHERS
② STEALTH
11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15
③ THE ISLAND
12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
④ FANTASTIC FOUR
11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
⑤ WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 28 NU vs FEU Jrs 10am DLSU vs UST Jrs 12nn
NU vs FEU Srs 2pm DLSU v UST Srs 4pm
MTV PILIPINAS 2005
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
PROMOS
Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galera! Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!
Araneta Center & LRT 2 Ride & Dine promo ongoing until October 19. Buy an LRT stored value card & get P350 worth of FREE food items at the Gateway Food Express!

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Little people in unusual love-match show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Studio 23 screened an unusual love-match show. It took its cue from "The Bachelor," but stood that popular reality-based format on its head by making its searcher a little person (midget).

The 12 women vying for his affection were similarly petite.

The unique love-match episode was titled "The Littlest Groom," and it was made particularly viewable by the natural charm of its chosen groom-to-be, Glenn.

Unlike some other midgets who look sort of deformed, Glenn was fairly well-proportioned, good-looking and articulate. About half of the 12 "little women" were also quite personable.

Early in the tilt, our vote went to Mika, a Eurasian who looked cute and talked well. She and Glenn were a perfect match, and we felt it would only be a matter of time before they pledged their troth to each other.

But the show had more tricks up its sleeve before the name of the winning girl was announced: After the 12 ladies were trimmed down to five, a monkey wrench was thrown into their prospects for success when some beautiful, "normal"-sized young women were added to the reality show's roster of finalists!

Well, you can imagine how ticked off the remaining "little women" were when their new, sexy rivals hove into view! Instead of walking out in a huff, however, they redoubled their efforts to convince Glenn that the best things in life do come in the smallest packages.

For their part, the new interlopers used their bountiful physical charms with a vengeance, and Glenn was clearly smitten.

Enough to forget Mika? The answer to that key question will have to wait until this Saturday, when the second half of the "littlest" search will be telecast.

We continue to hope that Mika will have the last laugh, and that her much taller competitors will get their comeuppance.

However, even if the little women lose out, their participation in the reality challenge would still be worthwhile, because they have shown that midgets don't need to be regarded as oddities, or be limited to being sideshow attractions.

All of the 12 little women who participated in the show spoke intelligently and well, and some of them held responsible and challenging jobs in business, counseling and psychology.

Thus, the love-match show may have had other goals, but it also boosted the viewing public's image of "little people" to a significant extent.

It showed us that, except for size, midgets are just like everybody else, and should be given the same opportunities to succeed.—Even if they don't get the guy at the final fade!

> Local version stands 'The Bachelor' on its head with a unique twist—a midget searcher

Feedback

From **Ellison V. Rañada** of Makati City: "I was able to watch some of the movies in the Cinemalaya Film Festival, and I was glad I did. They were so different from the usual Filipino movies, and gave me a viewing experience that was less predictable and more varied that was less predictable and more varied in terms of stories and characters.

"I saw a movie, 'Pepot Artista,' that starred a new child actor. At the same time, I saw **Eddie Garcia** playing a really old man, the main character in 'ICU Bed #7." It was the first time I saw a local movie that centered on an old character since 'Tanging Yaman.'

"It's good to get these different approaches, actors and characters, because they widen the scope of our movies. I hope this becomes a trend that will spill over into the bigger productions of the established movie studios."

Pambansang Museo ng Pelikula

Mowelfund's Board of Trustees will inaugurate the Pambansang Museo ng Pelikula at 6 p.m. on tomorrow at Mowelfund Plaza, 66 Rosario Drive, Cubao, Q.C.

Be there as 100 years of Philippine cinema unfold in sight, sound and color, under the aegis of the Mowelfund Film Institute. Museum curator **Nick Deocampo** will walk viewers through the most salient episodes of local film history via a sneak preview. Call 727-1916.

Jed Madela

YOUNG balladeer **Jed Madela** will represent the Philippines in the ninth World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California, USA, from Aug. 3 to 16. The other Philippine representative is **Rizaa Navales.**

The WCOPA invites performers from various countries to its global live-entertainment competition. This year, 40 countries are participating in competition categories that include dance, vocal, modeling, acting, instrumental and variety arts.

Since Hollywood is the entertainment capital of the world, agents, managers, record label representatives, producers and casting directors are invited to judge the competitions.

'Diva 2 Diva'

AFTER **Kuh Ledesma** and **Mitch Valdes'** successful solo shows at the Madarin's Captain's Bar, Kuh teams up with Zsa Zsa Padilla in "Diva 2 Diva," an update on the hit show that they have taken on a US tour, and will perform in Europe later this year.

"Diva 2 Diva" runs on August 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. Call 731-0635.

War on cancer

AT 6 p.m. on Aug. 13, CNN telecasts "Taming the Beast: Inside the War on Cancer," a medical special on the latest, cutting-edge methods being used to fight the deadly disease.

CNN's medical correspondent, **Dr. Sanjay Gupta,** visits the University of Texas. Gupta gains unprecedented access to hospital wards and gives viewers insights into the struggle fought by patients, doctors, families and clergy to triumph over the silent killer. Replay is at 12 noon and 6 p.m. on Aug. 14.

'Dark Water'

OSCAR awardee **Jennifer Connelly's** role in her latest film, "Dark Water," pushes her character's motherly devotion to the limits. Based on a story by the author of the horror classic "The Ring," "Dark Water" centers on Dahlia, a devoted mother, who will go to unimaginable lengths to protect her daughter from an apartment that threatens to unleash a torrent of evil.

Just who or what is playing mind games with Dahlia? And can she trust her own senses when her imagination is running wild? As her daughter Ceci's ghostly encounters and other strange occurrences escalate, Dahlia questions what she can really believe. She will stop at nothing to solve the riddle and protect her daughter—even as the dark water closes in around them . . .

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CINEMA 4 STEALTH PG13 12:15, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
CINEMA 5 STEALTH PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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AUGUST 5 & 6 NONOY ZUNIGA "THE LOVE CONCERT" 9PM
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1 STEALTH MTRCB PG-13 1.00, 4.00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF
2 WEDDING CRASHERS MTRCB PG-13 11 15, 1 45, 4 15, 6 45, 9 15 LMF
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED MTRCB GP 12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7.40, 10:00
4 THE ISLAND MTRCB PG-13 1 00, 4.00, 7.00, 10 00 LMF
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2 STEALTH PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
3 WEDDING CRASHERS PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
4 D' ANOTHERS PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
THE ISLAND PG13 12:20,3:10,6:00,8:50
STEALTH PG13 12:55,3:25,5:55,8:25
WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35,3:05,5:35, 8:05,10:30
THE ISLAND PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00
THE MACHINIST R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30
STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS
NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA movietime
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August 13, 2005 Saturday · 8:00 pm SM Megamall Cinema 10
August 19, 2005 Friday · 7:30 pm SM Manila Cinema 4
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Catch KITCHIE NADAL on stage!
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS
the podium 633-8976
1 STEALTH 12:35FS/01.05MF/03:40/06:15 08.15LFS/09 00LMF/11 00END
2 WEDDING CRASHER 11:45FS/12.15MF/02.25/04.35/06:45 08.25LFS/09.00LMF/10:35END
cebu (032) 231-3876
1 FANTASTIC OUR 11:50FS/12.00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36 08:23LFS/09 30LMF/11 20END
2 THE ISLAND 11:40FS/11:50MF/02 15/04 40/07:05 09.20LFS/09 30LMF/11 45END
3 STEALTH 11:10FS/11:15MF/01 45/04 20/06:55 09 05LFS/09 30LFS/11 40END
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE ISLAND
5 STEALTH
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 WEDDING CRASHER
8 NEW POLICE STORY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 IF ONLY
12 THE MACHINIST
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 IF ONLY
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 STEALTH
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 D'ANOTHERS
7 THE ISLAND
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 EVIL DEAD
11 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12 WEDDING CRASHER
SM NORTH EDSA
1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 WEDDING CRASHER
4 MAN OF THE HOUSE
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 THE MACHINIST
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
SM CITY STA MESA
1 STEALTH
2 WEDDING CRASHER
3 THE ISLAND
4 ICE PRINCESS
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 IF ONLY
9 NEW POLICE STORY
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHER
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 EVIL DEAD
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MACHINIST
2 THE ISLAND
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 STEALTH
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 WEDDING CRASHER
8 NEW POLICE STORY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 EVIL DEAD
12 IF ONLY
SM SAN LAZARO
1 STEALTH
2 IF ONLY
3 THE ISLAND
4 WEDDING CRASHER
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 D'ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 THE ISLAND
WEDDING CRASHER
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 WEDDING CRASHER
4 THE ISLAND
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE ISLAND
2 STEALTH
3 EVIL DEAD
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 NEW POLICE STORY
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE ISLAND
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 SIN CITY
SM CITY BACOOR
1 EVIL DEAD
2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 THE ISLAND
6 D'ANOTHERS
7 NEW POLICE STORY
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS
SM CITY MARILAO
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE ISLAND
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE ISLAND
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 STEALTH
SM CITY LUCENA
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 NEW POLICE STORY
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE ISLAND
STEALTH
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
CREEP
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
D' ANOTHERS
NEW POLICE STORY
SM CITY ILOILO
MEW POLICE STORY
2 RESERVED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 D'ANOTHERS
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA
SM CITY DAVAO
1 STEALTH
2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 CREEP
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND
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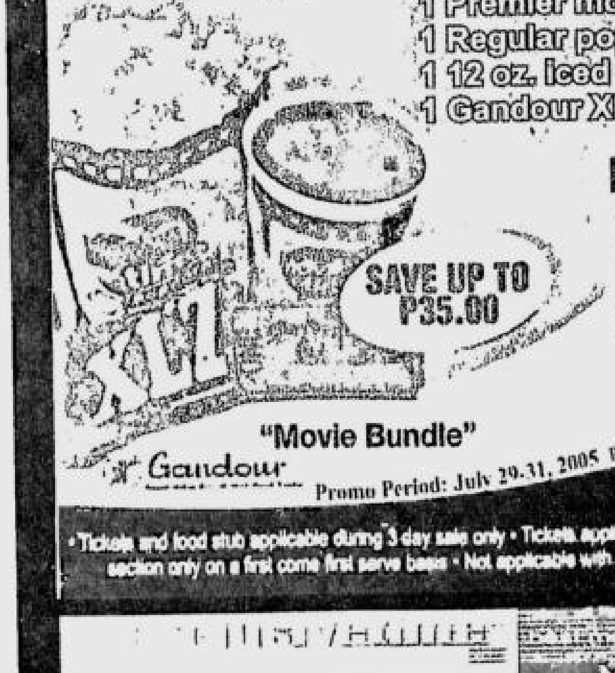

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1 STEALTH • THX
2 THE ISLAND
3 MACHINIST
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 STEALTH
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 STEALTH

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 STEALTH
2 IF ONLY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MACHINIST
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 THE ISLAND
7 D' ANOTHERS

METRO EAST 682-8193/682-8199

1 THE ISLAND
2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 STEALTH
6 IF ONLY
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 D' ANOTHERS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

PIONEER 687-5378

1 STEALTH
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 THE ISLAND
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

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Deadline of submission of entries is on July 28, 2005 at Robinsons Movieworld Customer Service or Robinsons Galleria Information Booths
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1 THE ISLAND
2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 THE ISLAND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 THE ISLAND
2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 EVIL DEAD

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

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1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 CREEP

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 EVIL DEAD
2 KALAPATI
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 STEALTH
6 THE ISLAND

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 HOTEL RWANDA
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HOTEL RWANDA
2 THE ISLAND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 NEW POLICE STORY
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

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AYALA GREENBELT

Swarovski Exhibit
July 23 to August 6, 2005
Ford Exhibit
July 22 to 24, 2005

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

"DON'T THINK" - A multi-media performance
by Marge Enriquez (By Invitational Only)
Directed by Bart Guingona & Choreographed by Douglas Nieras
July 28,2005

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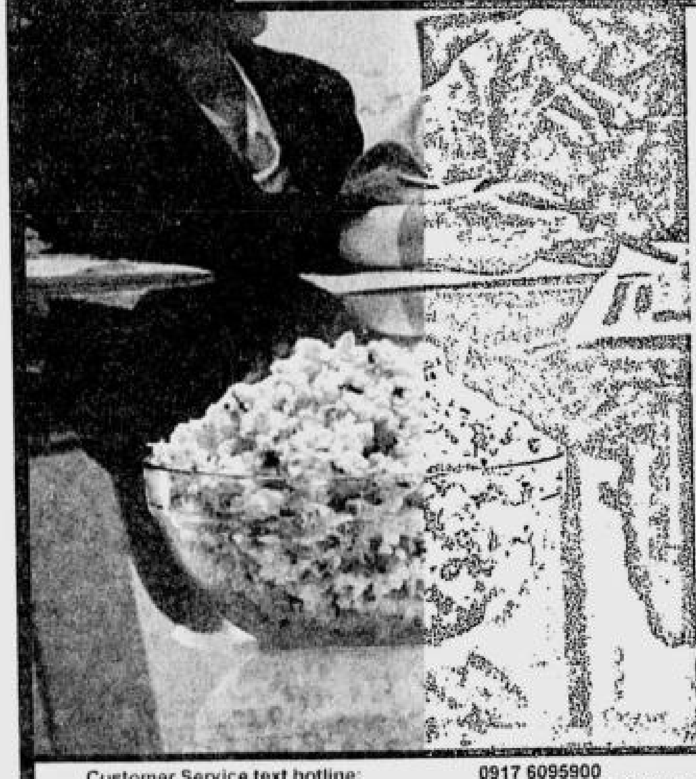
	4 FANTASTIC 4	5 THE MACHINIST	6 WEDDING CRASHERS	7 IF ONLY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 WEDDING CRASHERS	2 STEALTH		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WEDDING CRASHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX STEALTH GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 STEALTH GUARANTEED SEATS	4 IF ONLY GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE ISLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STEALTH	2 WEDDING CRASHERS		
	3 THE ISLAND	4 THE MACHINIST	5 D' ANOTHERS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STEALTH	2 MONSTER-IN-LAW	3 D' ANOTHERS	4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY



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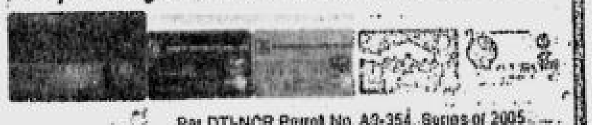

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-354, Series of 2005

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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It's great to give

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I KNOW I'd have to leave the show at some point, and another TV personality would be asked to host it and would accept. I will be forgotten," declared TV broadcast journalist Vicky Morales.

She replaced Bernadette Sembrano as host of GMA 7's public service program, "Wish Ko Lang."

"The focus is the stories, not the host," said Vicky, reacting to a comment made by entertainment writers comparing her to Bernadette. "We still have two roomfuls of letters."

Bernadette quit hosting "Wish" in December 2003 and transferred to rival network ABS-CBN. Vicky officially took over the role of granting lucky viewer's wishes in February 2004.

Face to face

"Our staff members go through the letters," she said. "Whatever they find that fits our theme, we consider. A group of researchers would go where the letter sender lives, to verify."

"Wish" forced her to come face-to-face with the hardship faced by others, she said.

This Mass Communication graduate grew up in Forbes Park, where Makati's old rich reside. "The program made me realize how blessed I've been, a fact that I took for granted before joining the show."

"*Masarap magbigay*, especially through a show like 'Wish' that has no other agenda, she said. For its third anniversary, "Wish Ko Lang" is giving a family a fully furnished house and lot worth P1 million. The recipient will be announced on Saturday.

The Sanipa family lives in a house so small, that parents Alfredo and Rosella sleep sitting down to allow their eight kids enough space.

Boy and Lina Alejandro and their nine children live in a small raft in a garbage-strewn river.

The dwelling of Mary Jane and Gary Henry is made of recycled plywood. They have not had a good night's rest since the typhoon season began.

How to choose

Viewers can vote for one of these families by texting WISHKOLANG and the letter of the family of their choice (A, B, C) to 2364 for Globe, 2344 for Sun Cellular and 367 for Smart and Talk and Text.

Two other families will receive livelihood showcases worth P150,000 each. A cash prize of P50,000 will be given to a winning text promo home partner.

"WISH" is about the stories, not the host, says Vicky Morales.

WHO MAKES KARYLLE SING?

SPIN CITY

Karylle's new album from Universal Records, "You Make Me Sing," sports production credits that would be the envy of any upcoming recording artist like herself. For example, Ogie Alcasid produced two songs— "Coz I Love You" and "Hanggang Wakas"—and Louie Ocampo co-wrote "Without You" with Jim Milbower. Ito Rapadas produced "Hiling," which Karylle wrote herself. The title track was written by JayR, who guest-performed in "The Real Karylle." Ogie composed, and also produced "Hindi Ko Na Kayang Masaktan Pa."

Charlie's sweet tab

LOS ANGELES—"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" remained the biggest draw at movie theaters, taking in $28.3 million during its second weekend.

The top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, according to official tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc.:

1) "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," $28,253,338
2) "Wedding Crashers," $25,665,065
3) "Fantastic Four," $12,646,871
4) "The Island," $12,409,070
5) "The Bad News Bears," $11,382,472
6) "War of the Worlds," $8,925,605
7) "Hustle & Flow," $8,017,808
8) "The Devil's Rejects," $7,067,335
9) "Batman Begins," $4,727,469
10) "March of the Penguins," $4,382,340

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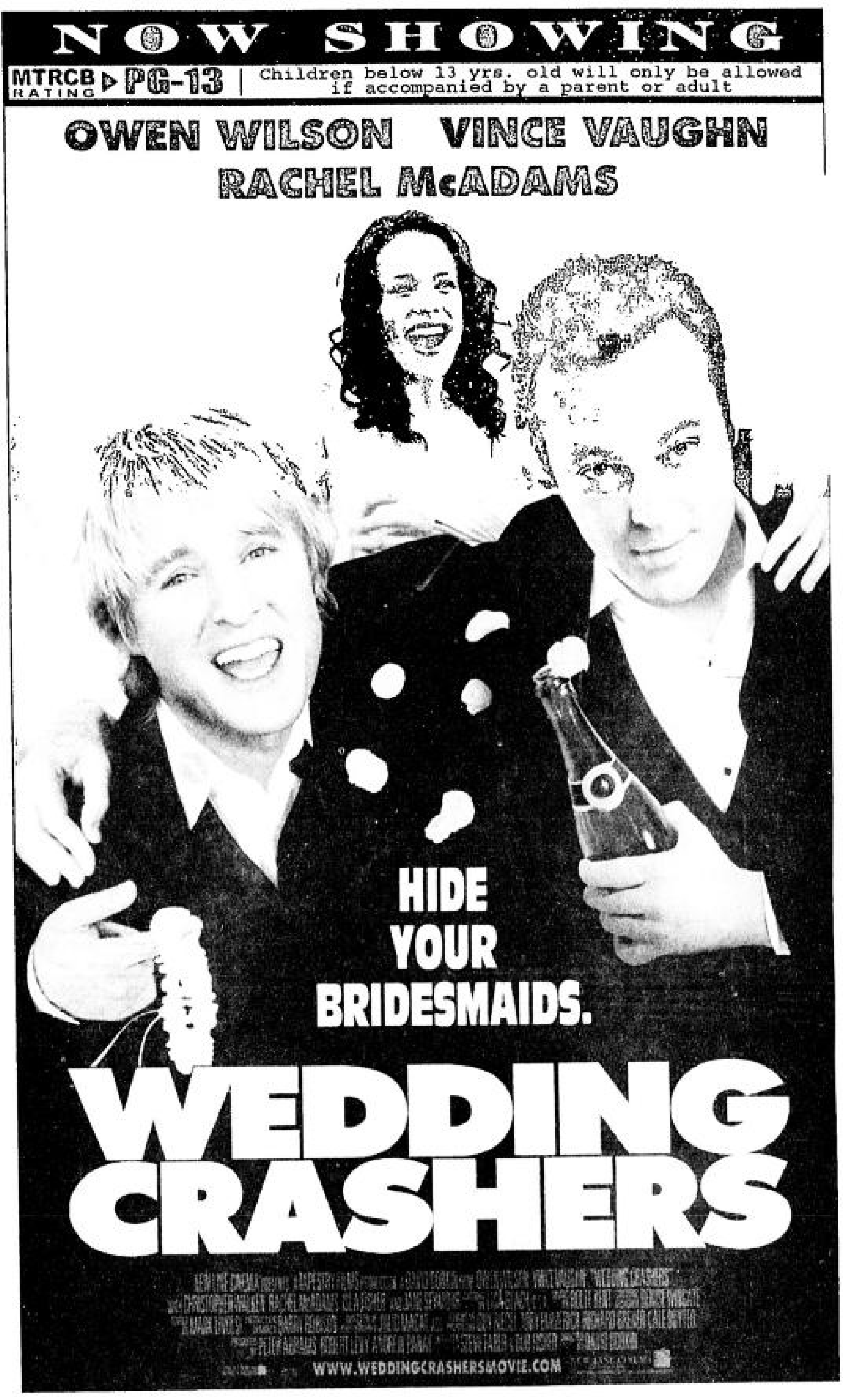

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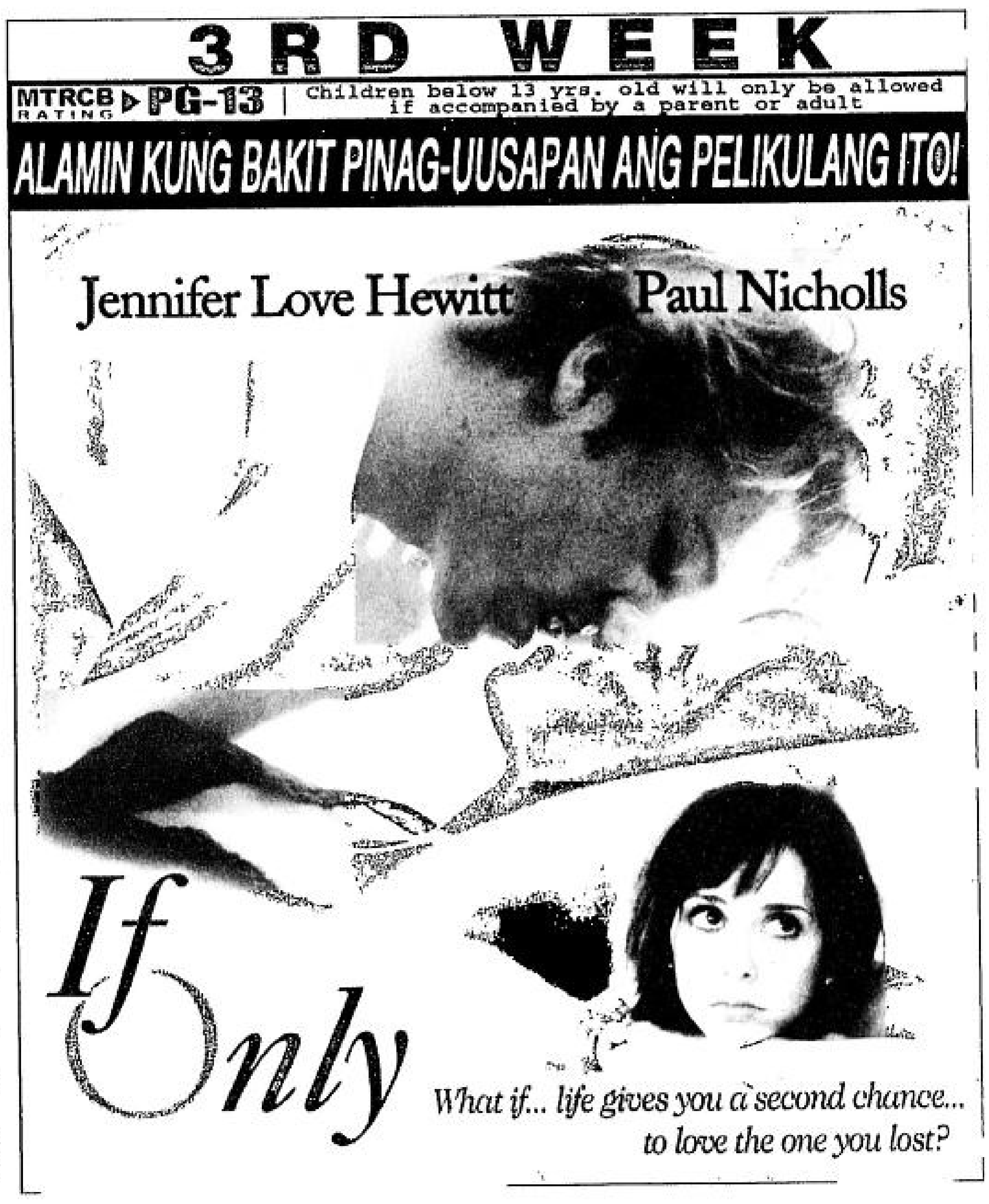

3RD WEEK
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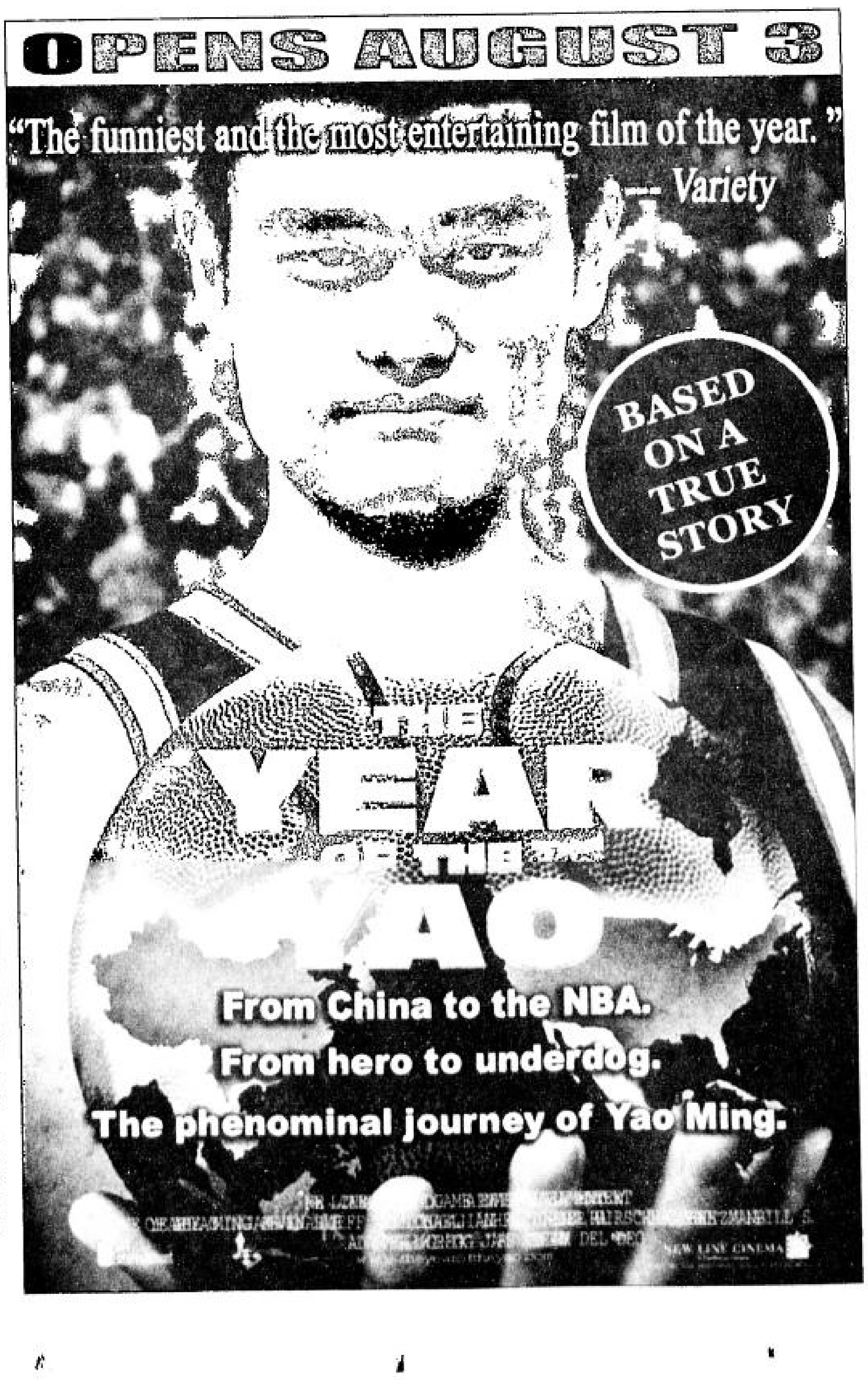
ALAMIN KUNG BAKIT PINAG-UUSAPAN ANG PELIKULANG ITO!
Jennifer Love Hewitt Paul Nicholls
If Only
What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?



OPENS AUGUST 3
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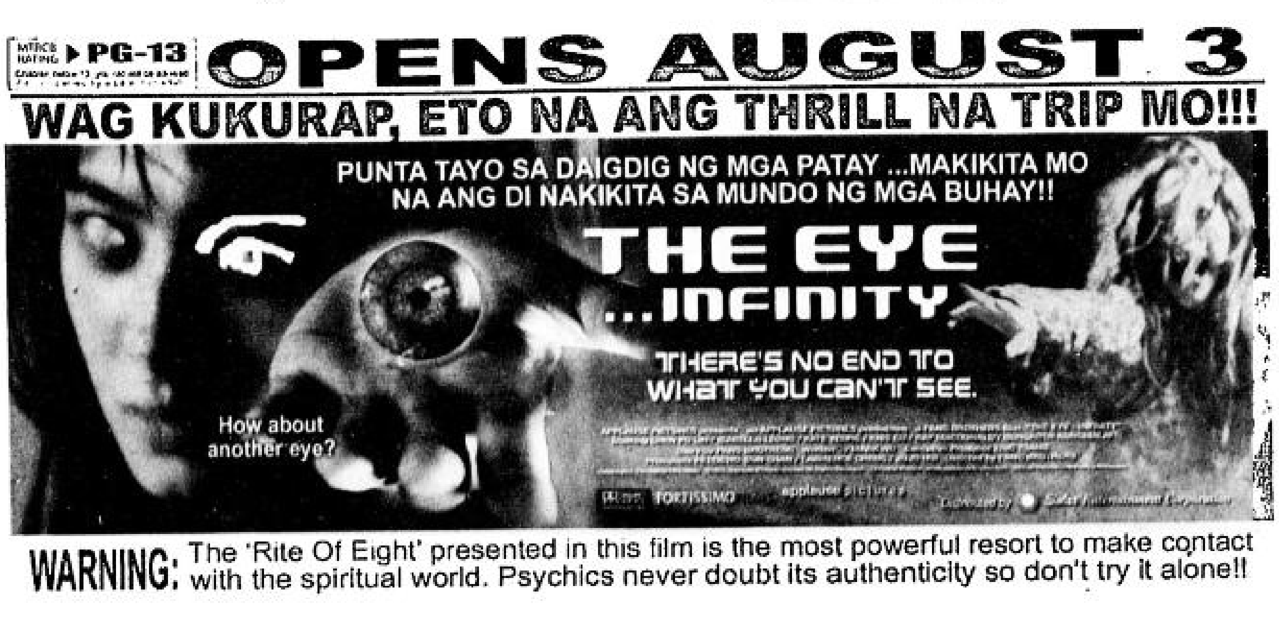
THE YEAR OF THE YAO
From China to the NBA.
From hero to underdog.
The phenominal journey of Yao Ming.



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
OPENS AUGUST 3
WAG KUKURAP, ETO NA ANG THRILL NA TRIP MO!!!
PUNTA TAYO SA DAIGDIG NG MGA PATAY ...MAKIKITA MO NA ANG DI NAKIKITA SA MUNDO NG MGA BUHAY!!
THE EYE ...INFINITY
THERE'S NO END TO WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE.
How about another eye?
WARNING: The 'Rite Of Eight' presented in this film is the most powerful resort to make contact with the spiritual world. Psychics never doubt its authenticity so don't try it alone!!

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Meralco nets ₱1.78B

DISTRIBUTION utility Manila Electric Co. registered a 66-percent increase in its second-quarter net income to P1.78 billion,

MERALCO/ B2

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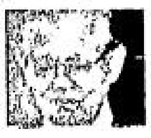

Former justice named chair of local bourse /B2

BPI to buy Prudential Bank for ₱6B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALAS' Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second biggest bank, yesterday signed an agreement to buy out up to 100 percent of the Santos family's Prudential Bank for about P6.13 billion.

The deal with Prudential Bank, which is expected to be completed next month, will build up BPI's total assets to P438 billion or only P23 billion shy of dislodging Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. as the country's biggest bank.

BPI agreed to acquire a minimum of 80 percent of Prudential from the Santos family and further increase its stake to 100 percent for P746.44 a share through a tender offering to minority shareholders.

"We are delighted with this latest acquisition of Prudential Bank because of the complementation it brings and the opportunities for growth that it provides," said BPI chair and Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II.

"Prudential Bank has been one of the more profitable banks under the leadership of its founders, the Santos family, and we look forward to further enhancing its value," he said.

As of the first quarter of this

BPI/ B2

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Director-General, NEDA

NEW NEDA CHIEF VOWS TO PURSUE ECONOMIC REFORMS
New Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Augusto B. Santos (right) responds to questions from the media during a meeting with the press recently at the Neda Boardroom in Pasig City. Santos said, as a member of the economic team, he is determined to continue pursuing fiscal reforms and the fulfillment of the programs and projects of the 10-point development agenda, which is the core of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), 2004-2010, Santos is joined by Daniel F. Pabellon (left), director of Neda's information technology staff, who fielded questions on the Unified Multipurpose ID System.

Gov't to push passage of 3 tax measures

Additional revenues estimated to reach about ₱20B a year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO administration is set to undertake the second phase of its fiscal reform program by pushing for the legislation of additional tax measures that are targeted to yield about P20 billion a year.

The Department of Finance said the measures would include the simplified net income tax system (SNITS), the rationalization of fiscal incentives and the expanded coverage of the excise tax to include soft drinks and other products considered as non-essentials.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the DOF was already preparing for the lobbying of these measures in the 13th Congress.

The SNITS and the rationalization of fiscal incentives were part of the Arroyo administration's original eight legislative measures intended to address the country's fiscal problem. The expansion of the excise tax coverage is a new proposal from the DOF.

Under the SNITS, the allowable deductions from the taxable income of corporate taxpayers would be trimmed and self-employed individuals would be treated like corporate taxpayers.

The rationalization of fiscal incentives aims to reduce the lost potential revenues resulting from the granting of unnecessary and excessive tax and duty incentives to investors.

Beltran said the three additional tax measures would help the government reach its target of increasing the government's tax effort (revenue-to-gross domestic product ratio) to 18 percent from the current 13 percent. He said the expanded VAT alone was not enough to reach the goal of achieving an 18-percent tax effort.

The additional revenues from the

GOV'T/ B2

INDICATORS

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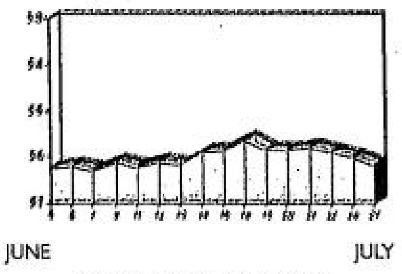


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

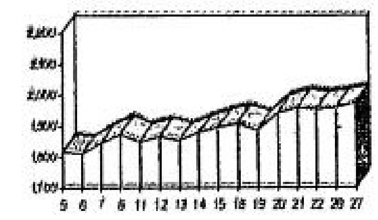
₱ 56.175 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 27, 2005

¥ 112.70 = $ 1
As of 3 p.m., July 27, 2005

GOLD: $422.50-423.00
per ounce Hong Kong, July 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.76% higher

SHARE prices closed 0.76 percent higher yesterday, extending gains on follow-through buying of selected blue chips with robust results for the three months to June, dealers said.

They also credited the easing of political tensions after street protests calling for President Gloria Arroyo's ousting passed without incident for adding to the improved market sentiment.

SHARES/ B2

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Golf and country crab

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HONESTLY, at this time in my life, after raising a son, planting a tree, and writing a book (okay, it's only a brochure, but it's a thick one), I really have only one more wish.

And that is, I wish all those who are putting our country down as a hopeless case, would think of the serious thought-provoking issue on what, from now on, everybody should recognize as our official, definitive national crab species.

I also wish for a sleek sports car, but not because everybody thinks it is an effective chick magnet, since I really don't go crazy over sweet young things, especially when they wear those low waist jeans, their backs already showing the "smiley."

Alright, maybe I have only two more wishes: an official declaration of the national crab, a smooth sports car, and much lower price of gasoline. Okay, three wishes.

* * *

ALTHOUGH we as a people love crabs, aside from golf (for the rich) and "jueteng" (for the rest of the country), and that's probably why we behave like them, we have yet to declare officially the national crab species.

According to the sole authority on our crab heritage, which is everybody who opens his or her mouth, we actually have two kinds, namely, *alimasag* and *alimango*.

To ordinary people down here in my barangay, crabs are just crabs, no matter how you cook them. It all depends on the cook.

Still, some groups insist that this country must decide, once and for all, which between *alimasag* and *alimango* should be declared as the national crab.

It is a complicated issue, its resolution perhaps requiring another Edsa-type people power, i.e. mob rule, or AFP withdrawal of support, i.e. military coup.

But the experts are decided that we cannot move forward, unless we decide which crab species to hold up as our national pride.

You know—much like parliamentary versus presidential!

* * *

AT least it is the message that I gather nowadays from our crab experts in politics, in the movie industry (if any, or what is left of it) and in general.

That, by the way, only means everybody who has a mouth and loves to open it.

Is it *alimasag* or *alimango*? This issue today helps us to continue to build on our oral tradition, i.e. our national heritage of opening our mouths.

Our crab experts believe that we have to resolve the crab issue once and for all, because it has been our weakness for hundreds of years.

Maybe that's why Spain, for instance, could rule our country for more than 300 years even from halfway across the globe.

To think, it all started with the arrival of our first tourist, a Spaniard named Fred or Ferdie Magellan, who was killed here by a fish, said to be either tuna or bangus, and not crab.

* * *

ALRIGHT, down here we agree on the urgency of the crab issue. For us to have our own national crab, remains one of my three wishes.

As I said, the others are a sports car, low gas price, and some good no-pothole, no-traffic roads where I can go 200 kilometers an hour. Okay, four wishes.

We are told down here that we cannot realize our wishes, unless we resolve the national crab issue, and the biggest block to its resolution is none other than Gloriaetta.

She would not want to make the "ultimate sacrifice." As another word for "sacrifice," my thesaurus actually lists "surrender."

And so that is what they meant by sacrifice—that Gloriaetta surrenders to their position, which means that she steps down from her office. That's it, problem solved!

Her ultimate sacrifice, according to the present day oral tradition, should then create political stability and all that.

Down here in my barangay, we take all that stability jazz to mean that everybody goes back to what they are doing, such as public officials robbing us blind once again.

* * *

AND so if, one, Gloriaetta makes the ultimate sacrifice and, two, we can then resolve the crab issue, we will finally have stability, i.e. back to normal.

But look, ma, for us down here, it has always been "back to normal."

Just because the experts are opening their mouths does not mean that we are listening intently, or worse, also opening our mouths at the same time.

For there is nothing more irritating than when some experts are talking, while you are interrupting. And this is precisely what the experts are doing to each other.

To us down here, it has always been "back to normal," because everyday we must face—on our own, without the help of our experts—the bad effects of high fuel prices.

For fuel prices are still up there somewhere in the vicinity of ET's home. As a result, prices of everything go up there somewhere near ET's neighbor.

* * *

WE would love to dive into the crab issue, why not, because we also would want to feel the pride in being able to claim that we finally have a national crab species.

Still, down here in my barangay, we feel in our daily lives the sad fact that today, the price of oil is at its highest in almost 25 years at around $60 a barrel.

In 1981, the world reached the peak of the first oil crisis, which was the handiwork of the world's biggest oil suppliers known as the Opec.

At today's prices, the price of oil in 1981 would be around $75 a barrel. And so today we are close to the height of the oil crisis 25 years ago.

All over the world, every analyst is saying that the dramatic rise in world prices of oil will not stop at $60.

Our experts better resolve this crab issue soon, or else we will again dig ourselves into another oil-debt-economic crisis like in the 1980s.

But how are we preparing ourselves for the crisis that, based on world trend, is almost certain to come? By some more oral tradition, what else? What a treat to us down here!

* * *

OF course the crab experts think that Gloriaetta is not the one who can guide us through these hard times. Hmm.

Maybe it's because she is a woman, and conventional thinking says that only guys know how to fix things.

And so down here we get new materials for our oral tradition, some buzzwords such as "moral ascendancy" and "credible leadership."

Simply put, they mean that nobody in this country would follow Gloriaetta anymore because the experts have already declared her as immoral.

And all along down here, we thought that morality is a private matter, which is something in your conscience. You know—it is not up to other people to say! Even the crabs know that.

Former justice named chair of local bourse

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) has named another nonbroker as its new chair, former Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug.

Vitug, as an independent director, also heads the local bourse's market integrity board.

The board oversees the operations of the PSE's police unit, the former Compliance and Surveillance Group that has been renamed Market Regulatory Office (MRO).

The market integrity board was formed to erase the public perception that the stock exchange has remained an old boys club or a group of stockbrokers who protect each other at the expense of the investing public.

Vitug replaces former chair Peter Favila, who was recently appointed as trade secretary by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Favila replaced Juan Santos, who quit the Arroyo Cabinet as part of the what has been referred to as the Hyatt 10.

Reports earlier pointed to Vitug as among the lead counsels of President Arroyo in her struggle to fend off alleged wiretapping issues.

Vitug, described by fellow justices as the high tribunal's "jovial conscience," stepped down in 2004 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70.

BPI to buy Prudential Bank for ₱6B

From page B1

year, BPI's return on assets (ROA), which measures the bank's ability to harness resources in generating profits, stood at 1.8 percent against Prudential Bank's 0.85 percent.

"Given BPI's ROA, which is almost double Prudential's, there's room for improvement--room to generate more income from assets more than what they're getting now," said Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas.

"On the assets of Prudential, BPI can get another 1 percent return if they apply the same management tack," he added.

This willl be BPI's first major acquisition since gobbling up Far East Bank and Trust Co. in 2000 and the local operations of Development Bank of Singapore in 2002.

BPI, the oldest bank in Southeast Asia, enjoys a significant presence in corporate finance, asset and fund management, securities distribution and insurance. It is also a recognized leader in electronic banking, having pioneered the automated teller machines, point-of-sale debit system, kiosk banking, phone banking (including electronic payments by phone) as well as Internet banking and mobile banking.

BPI has been growing through acquisitions to fast-track its growth. It merged with Peoples Bank and Trust Co. in 1974, followed by the merger with Commercial Bank and Trust Co. in 1981, then acquired Ayala Investment and Development Corp. and Makati Leasing and Finance Corp. in 1982 and Family Savings Bank in 1985.

It continued its expansion with the acquisition of Citytrust Banking Corp. in 1996 and Ayala Insurance Holdings Corp. in 2000.

Prudential Bank, on the other hand, caters primarily to medium-sized entrepreneurs. In 1987, it teamed up with Bank of Tokyo to acquire 84.69 percent of Pilipinas Bank. A merger was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2000, with Prudential Bank as the surviving entity.

As of the first quarter of this year, BPI had total resources of about P386 billion while Prudential had about P58 billion. Their combined resources stood at about P444 billion as against Metrobank's P461 billion.

Prudential Bank, the 18th biggest among commercial banks, has a loan portfolio of P12.8 billion and a deposit base of P43 billion. It has 187 branches, 91 of which are in the National Capital Region and 95 in the provinces.

BPI also signed yesterday a deal to sell P2.4 billion worth of non-performing loans to a unit of the Amroc group, one of the biggest privately owned debt trading and investment management firms in the United States.

The agreement did not qualify for fiscal incentives under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Act that expired last April. But since the portfolio sold consisted of unsecured non-performing loans, the kind of transaction costs are not significant compared to transfer costs if the loans were secured, allowing BPI to complete the transaction even without SPV incentives.

Gov't to push passage of 3 tax measures

From page B1

three tax measures would also compensate for the estimated P20-billion reduction in the incremental revenues from the Expanded Value Added Tax Law, some of whose provisions would be amended.

The VAT law contains two provisions that put a limit on the input VAT credits that businesses can claim. But Beltran said the DOF would work on having these provisions withdrawn through legislation following complaints from the business sector.

The two provisions are those imposing a 70-percent VAT cap on input VAT credits, and the spreading over a five-year period of the input VAT credits gained from purchasing capital equipment worth at least P1 million.

The provisions limiting the input VAT credits claims of businesses were placed in the VAT law to address suspected abuse among corporate taxpayers. The DOF said some taxpayers claimed too much input VAT credits, therefore substantially reducing their VAT liabilities.

"There was too much cheating in the system of the input VAT claims that was why we had these provision. But the problem is even the honest ones would be affected by the limits," Beltran said in an interview.

The expanded VAT was originally estimated to yield as much as P105 billion annually starting next year. But the estimated revenue a year was cut to only P84 billion due to the DOF's plan to have the two provisions removed.

Meralco nets P1.78B

From page B1

allowing it to post a P73.59-million profit in the first half despite a P1.71-billion loss in the first three months of the year.

The company bounced back from its first-quarter loss due to higher electricity sales, particularly in June when sales grew 5.21 percent, after increasing by only 0.62 percent in May and declining 1.61 percent in April.

For the second quarter, sales jumped 1.43 percent to 6,529 gigawatt-hours (GWh) on the back of strong sales to commercial customers.

The number of Meralco's commercial customers grew 4.16 percent to 369,267, while sales increased by 5.19 percent to 2,360 GWh, fueled by the retail trade and transport services sectors.

The retail trade segment posted a 35.2-percent increase in sales due to the opening of the Value Shop in Taguig and Metro Walk in Pasig. Meralco said sales would likely shoot up further when new malls open within the year.

Sales to the transport services sector jumped 13.5 percent as the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2 (LRT 1 and 2) and the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) had increased traffic when schools opened last month.

The proliferation of new call centers likewise boosted sales to the commercial segment, Meralco said.

Sales to the industrial and residential customer classes declined 0.68 percent to 1,777 GWh and 0.6 percent to 2,354 GWh, respectively.

With its relatively strong performance in the April-June period, profits would have been at P3.43 billion had it not been for a P1.65-billion provision for probable losses in preparation for a possible adverse Supreme Court ruling on its rates unbundling case. *Abigail L. Ho*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 27, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29	29.5	29	29	1,422,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	49.5	48	49.5	605,900
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	600
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	830,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	644,400
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	517,100
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	6,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	12.25	11.5	12	85,800
Security Bank Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	183,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2755	2755	2755	2755	320
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	28,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	140	140	140	400
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1940	1955	1940	1955	520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.75	123,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	3,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	820	815	815	23,770
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	3	2.9	3	125,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	3,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	647,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1590	1605	1590	1605	245,620
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.5	206,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.75	24	562,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	878,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.15	2,660,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	16,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	7.8	8	103,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.02	1.02	52,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	301,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	19,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30	30	30	30	24,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	67	68	66.5	68	287,600
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	99	100	76,230
Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	800
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	9,000,000
Ayala Corp.	317.5	327.5	317.5	325	82,920
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	166,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	19,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.86	39,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	99,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	430,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,613,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	530,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	60,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.55	2.65	7,350,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.8	627,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45.5	44	45.5	825,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	316,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.8	147,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.34	1,409,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	5,790,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	300,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	221	218	221	485,420
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.175	5,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	420,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	9,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.95	1,470,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	2,451,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	12.5	13	12.5	12.5	899,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	98,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	27,437,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	290,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.215	4,910,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	5,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	1,459,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.055	0.07	0.055	0.07	1,100,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	2,724,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	2,990,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.06	1.16	1	1.14	1,031,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	93,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	115,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	29,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	24,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.9	2,890,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	29	28	28	462,300
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	43,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	120,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.2	225,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,700,000

CURRENCIES

July 27, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.832085	1.000000	55.8800
Japan	Yen	0.007398	0.008891	0.4968
United Kingdom	Pound	1.446747	1.738700	97.1586
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106996	0.128588	7.1855
Switzerland	Franc	0.640361	0.769586	43.0045
Canada	Dollar	0.677043	0.813670	45.4679
Singapore	Dollar	0.498583	0.599197	33.4831
Australia	Dollar	0.631372	0.758783	42.4008
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.207298	2.652731	148.2346
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221877	0.266652	14.9005
Brunei	Dollar	0.497094	0.597407	33.3831
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020012	0.024050	1.3439
UAE	Dirham	0.226572	0.272294	15.2158
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.201800	67.1566
Argentina	Peso	0.291193	0.349956	19.5555
Brazil	Real	0.340349	0.409031	22.8567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134043	0.161093	9.0019
India	Rupee	0.019168	0.023036	1.2873
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222008	0.266809	14.9093
Mexico	New Peso	0.077925	0.093650	5.2332
New Zealand	Dollar	0.568131	0.682780	38.1537
South Africa	Rand	0.124657	0.149813	8.3716
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.000976	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.105762	0.127105	7.1026
Syria	Pound	0.016029	0.019264	1.0765
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026153	0.031431	1.7564

Shares close 0.76% higher

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 14.96 points to 1,974.54, its high for the day. It touched a low of 1,959.58 points.

The broader all-shares index gained 5.92 points to 1,186.43.

Volume was 436.28 million shares worth P1.09 billion. Advancers edged out losers 37 to 25, with 45 stocks unchanged.

"Expectations of solid second quarter earnings have continued to support the market. But investors have remained cautious given that political uncertainties are still there," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

There has been a widespread clamor for Ms Arroyo's resignation following the release of audiotapes allegedly showing that she cheated in the 2004 elections.

"Right now, the market is waiting for the resolution of the issues hounding the presidency," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the most active stock, rising P20 to P1,605.

Ayala Land was the second top-traded stock, up 10 centavos to P8.10 while its parent Ayala Corp. rose P10 to P325.

Bank of the Philippine Islands was up 50 centavos at P49.50.

San Miguel saw its "A" shares, limited to local investors, [illegible] P1.50 to P68 while San Miguel "B" shares were down a peso to P100. *AFP*

BellTel to start P6-B expansion

By Clarissa S. Batino

BELL Telecommunications Philippines Inc.—a provider of integrated voice, high-speed Internet and, eventually, video services—is embarking on a P6-billion expansion program in the next five years, its top official said.

BellTel chair and chief executive officer Edgardo Reyes said his company would roll out its converged voice, data and Internet facilities in 17 additional areas within five years.

The five-year-old telecom player is controlled by the families of Reyes, Francisco Ortigas, Francisco Madrigal and Felix Maramba.

The company specializes in providing a single communication line that customers can use to call, surf the Web and download data, and soon, watch television and videos.

Reyes said BellTel was now talking with two potential foreign partners that could infuse additional equity for the P6-billion expansion. The company will also tap loans as it widens its reach and increases its capacity.

The company has seven existing base stations in Metro Manila, Cavite and Laguna serving 1,000 corporate customers. It aims to increase its subscriber base to 80,000 once the expansion is completed.

The plan, according to Reyes, is to put up base stations in two areas in Batangas City, Dasmariñas in Cavite, Caloocan City, Malolos in Bulacan, Clark Economic Zone, Subic Free Port Zone, Bataan, Tarlac, Baguio City, Mactan in Cebu City, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao City and General Santos.

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UBP profit up 36.4% in 1st half

UNION Bank of the Philippines, the banking arm of the Aboitiz group, posted a 36.4-percent growth in profit to P1.5 billion in the first half from a year-ago level.

The higher-than-expected bottom line was achieved despite the P180 million set aside by the bank as provision for loan losses.

"Rising profits from consumer finance, cash management services, capital markets businesses and asset recovery boosted the bank's revenue by 40.5 percent to P4.5 billion," UBP said.

UBP, one of companies prequalified to bid for a controlling stake in Philippine National Bank, said its profitability ratios remained among the highest in the industry.

Return on average equity was 17.8 percent, up from 14.3 percent in the same period last year, while return on average assets rose to 2.9 percent from 2.8 percent.

Total assets went up by 38 percent to P105.9 billion from P76.7 billion. The bank's asset expansion was driven by higher deposit levels now at P59.4 billion, up from P46.9 billion. Capital base grew by 12.9 percent to P17.5 billion from P15.5 billion during the period in review. Doris C. Dumlao

Bancommerce to raise ₱1.2B

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approved recently the Bank of Commerce's plan to raise Tier-2 capital through the issuance of unsecured subordinated notes with an indicative issue size of P1.2 billion.

Bancommerce will start offering the notes on July 28. The notes will be priced based on the 5-year MART 1 FXTN prevailing at the time of the offer plus a spread. As of July 26, the 5-year MART 1 was at 10.871 percent. The bank's USN will mature in 10 years callable after five years.

The bank and the notes have been rated "PRS A" by Philratings.

The notes are available to Filipino citizens, aliens residing in the Philippines, non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the country, tax qualified employee trust funds established by corporations and other tax-exempt institutions. The yield of Tier 2 notes is usually higher than the rates of government securities and bank deposits of similar tenor.

SMC food business posts 18% growth

SAN MIGUEL Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, yesterday said its local food group recovered from a weak first quarter to post an 18-percent rise in revenue in April to June from a year earlier.

The domestic food sector—comprised of meats and processed meats, poultry, dairy and agribusiness—recorded sales revenue of P16 billion in the second quarter, San Miguel said in a statement.

San Miguel's food and agriculture business accounted for 31 percent of its consolidated sales and 10 percent of operating income in 2004, according to the company's annual report.

Operating income of the domestic food group, which includes San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc., reached P800 million in the second quarter or four times the first quarter level and 27 percent higher from a year earlier. *Reuters*

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Fees are inclusive of lunch, morning and afternoon snacks (except for Single Pass), program guide, presentation materials, and participation in the raffle draw.

CONFERENCE TOPICS
MANAGEMENT / OPERATIONS TRACK
1. Selecting the right location and managing a multi-site operation
2. Managing hyper-growth call centers
3. Moving your call center from a cost center to a profit center
4. Designing facilities that create a fun and productive environment
5. Managing high-performance organizations using the Balanced Scorecard
6. Workforce management through effective forecasting
7. Improving service quality using ISO, COPC, and 6 Sigma?
8. How call centers make life easier for Filipinos

HR TRACK
1. Attracting great talent in a hyper-competitive job market
2. Keeping good people and preventing high turnover
3. Succession planning and career progression
4. Effective training for supervisors and managers
5. Improving productivity
6. Developing a positive work culture to drive performance
7. Managing people in an ever-changing organization
8. Outsourcing HR services

IT TRACK
1. Managing an IT infrastructure library - ITIL
2. Evaluating the benefits and costs of IP-based systems
3. Contact Center Trends: What are the New Drivers. Impacting Contact Center Evolution?
4. Maximizing CRM system
5. Disaster recovery and business continuity in a call center
6. Using a unified technology solution to improve customer service environment
7. Making disparate systems work together
8. Emerging technologies for contact centers

* Speakers are both local and international call center professionals
* Some topics might change without prior notice

Group registration
Delegates belonging to the same company who register together as a group of 5 will be given a 10% discount.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

BPI and Erik Santos fete Expat Pinoys of Cavite

FILLING SM Bacoor's Activity Center to the rafters, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Erik Santos honored Cavite's Expat Pinoys and their families by giving them a special musical treat.

Noting how a significant number of Expat Pinoys come from Cavite, BPI conceptualized the special free concert dubbed "Up Close and Personal with Erik Santos", as a salute to Expat Pinoys for braving the challenges of working abroad for the sake of their families.

The event is also BPI's way of introducing the Express Remit service with Text Alert to its Caviteño clientele. Express Remit is BPI's convenient, worry-free, remittance service that provides an SMS alert to both the sender and recipient that the amount sent is already credited to the BPI Express Teller account of the beneficiary.

Other BPI products like the Build your Dream Housing Loan, Drive your Dream Car Loan and pre-need insurance – the Ayala GiftEd and Pension Plan, were also presented to the audience to familiarize them with services the bank offers to help them achieve their dreams.

BPI Express Remit's celebrity endorser Erik Santos was well received by the audience as he showcased the talent that earned for him the title Prince of Pop. Starting off with his rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly", Erik led the crowd to a show filled with inspiring songs like "Habang May Buhay", "I'll Be" and "Impossible Dream", representing the feelings and aspirations of every Expat Pinoy.

He also sang well-loved songs from his album like "Di Ko Kaya", "I'll Never Go" and "This is the Moment" and rendered medleys of favorite love songs and pop tracks to the delight of the crowd. Erik later on gave a touching interpretation of "Abutin Mo ang Iyong Pangarap", BPI's theme song for Expat Pinoys that depict the many dreams of the modern day heroes, which moved the audience close to tears.

Aside from the special concert, the Expat Pinoys and their families were given Erik Santos' latest CD Lite as souvenir, which features "Abutin", the Expat Pinoy theme song. Aside from being treated to an afternoon of good music, they were also granted exclusive access to Erik Santos' CD autograph signing session.

But the tribute to the Expat Pinoys does not end there as BPI also gives Expat Pinoys and their families chances to win in two exclusive promos, the "Doble-Doble Panalo" and "Express Remit, Eskwela Treat".

In the "Doble-Doble Panalo" monthly raffle, all they have to do is open a remittance/allottee account from April 1 to Dec. 31, and automatically get a chance to win P5,000 for opening the remittance account plus another P5,000 when the first remittance has been made.

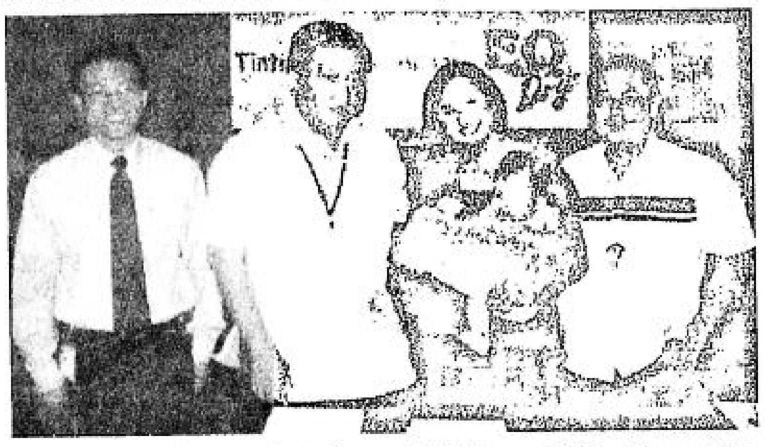
On the other hand, Credit to Account remittances done within May 1 to Aug. 31, which are coursed through BPI Express Remittance Centers (BERCS) and BPI's remittance tie-up companies abroad also entitles the beneficiary to win Tuition Expense prize, Book Expense Prize or School Supplies Expense Prize in the "Express Remit, Eskwela Treat" promo's monthly and grand draw.

Our Expat Pinoys abroad incessantly do their families and their country proud, not minding the distance and sacrifices they have to make. Knowing this, BPI continues its commitment to provide them with means to achieve their dreams.

GLOBE UNVEILS PREPAID CARD VENDING MACHINE

Globe Prepaid subscribers get updated on the latest services from Globe Handyphone when they stock up on Globe Call and Text Cards from this Ventaja International prepaid card vending machine. The machine - which dispenses Globe Call and Text Cards in P100, P300 and P500 denominations - continuously plays Globe TVCs on a mounted flat screen for easy viewing. Present during the unveiling at Glorietta 3's Digital Exchange were (from left): Ventaja Int'l vice president Yoohoo Villanueva, Globe's prepaid reload services manager Aileen Vardeleon, Ventaja Int'l president Vincent Grey, Globe's head of prepaid marketing Joy Santos, and Globe's prepaid reload consultant Jenny Granada.

TINTIN AND ANTONIA BERSOLA-BABAO FOR EQ DRY DIAPERS



Tintin and Antonia Bersola Babao recently signed as EQ Dry Diapers' new product endorsers. Tintin, as a new and promising mom fits the profile of a mother who truly knows what makes her child happy. Present during the contract signing were (from left) JS Unitrade representatives VP for marketing, Eugene C. Go and president, Samuel L. Po with EQ Dry new product endorsers Tintin and Antonia Bersola-Babao with their manager Dondon Monteverde. Watch out for new and exciting adventures with the only diaper which makes Tintin and Antonia completely happy. EQ Dry Diapers' are exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, a company of First SLP Holdings Inc and are available in all leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.

LAFARGE LISTENS TO KIDZ VOICE

Lafarge Cement Services, a corporate partner of Hands On Manila Foundation, sponsored a fundraising show entitled Kidz Voice: The Voice of the New Pinoy Generation. Kidz Voice is a performing group formed by Hope for Change based in Iligan City to nurture the creative talents of the youth coming from difficult circumstances. The event aimed to raise scholarship funds for the primary and secondary education of streetchildren and poverty-stricken families. In photo are: Kidz Voice, Hope for Change executive director Nanette Antequisa, Iligan City Vice Mayor Henry Dy, Iligan Cement HR manager Yvette Tingcang, Iligan Cement president Renato Sunico, Mindanao Portland Cement president Reinier Dizon, HOM executive director Lisa Crisostomo, Lafarge SVP HR/OD/Comm Edgardo Soriano, and Lafarge corporate communications officer Cedi Cutanda.

Dermclinic celebrates Skin Festival at SM City Batangas

THE ACTIVITY Center of SM City Batangas became the venue of Dermclinic's Skin Festival, an exciting parade of beauty glamorizing skin-baring essentials. Held June 24, the event marked the launch of the newly-opened Dermclinic branch in SM Batangas City and featured the importance of a regular skin care regimen in acquiring healthy, beautiful skin. Shoppers flocked the Dermclinic booth which offered free skin consultation. Licensed medical professionals gave free medical talks on personal skin concerns and on how to best treat these problems. Dermclinic also spearheaded the discussion on modern trends addressing the skin concerns via an audio-visual presentation. Acne treatment now encompasses a wide-range of approaches: from therapeutic massages, tretinoin, glycolic peels to Dermabrasion, Restylane and Perlane, and even surgery. People who want to look younger can likewise benefit from cosmetic procedures offered by Dermclinic. Dr. Vinson Pineda, the moving force behind Dermclinic, said "Dermclinic is in constant pursuit of the latest technologies and advances in skin and hair care. We are bringing these breakthrough procedures to the Philippines, as well as regularly educating Filipinos on proper skin and hair care."

BITS Clips

JimenezBasic brings home 2 gold awards

JIMENEZBASIC, now the country's biggest advertising agency, took home two gold trophies at the 2005 Creative Guild of the Philippines Diwa Ad of the Year Awards. These were awarded for the agency's work for Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc, the country's largest and only rehabilitation facility for those with Cerebral Palsy. The Creative Guild Ad of the Year recognizes the most creative advertising work as judged by peers in the industry--so winning is more difficult as ads are evaluated solely on creative merit.

Finex forum at Dusit

THE PUBLIC Affairs Committee of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) invites you to attend a forum entitled "Deepening Reforms in the Power Industry" scheduled today, 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Yakal Room, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The forum aims to provide participants with the different views of industry players with respect to developments in the power industry, in particular on industry restructuring and the future of power prices and power supply in the Philippines. Registration fee for members is P1,000 and non-members is P1,500. For inquiries and reservations, contact the Finex Secretariat c/o Marrie Ju P. Gaspi at 811-4052, 811-4186 to 88 or email at mpgaspi@finex.org.ph.

Nina back at Suburbia Bar

NINA holds a repeat performance at Suburbia Bar tonight, a take-off from her highly successful show of the Soul Siren @ Suburbia Bar recently. Capture the Soul Siren magic happening at Suburbia Bar located at 1781 Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila tonight and enjoy music one will surely never forget. For ticket reservations and inquiries on the Nina show contact 811-0725 or 410-1685 or email at suburbia@xaxmusic.com.

It's Ratsky Malate's 6th year

TREAT your family and friends to a free entrance from July 25 to 31 at Ratsky Malate for the 6th anniversary celebration dubbed "Sixth in the City". Performing tonight is K & D Boxers. Scheduled on July 29 are exciting and non-stop live performances from top bands like Blow (Diether Ocampo), 9th Ave., Fat Babes, Swerve and Art N' Soul. On July 30, party goers are greeted by 6 sexy dancers from Genesis Dance Revolution and the dancing goes on with Randy Santiago, Rage, Pure Instinct, Mocha with Spin Art and other guests. For inquiries, call 523-8608 or log on to www.ratskybar.com.

CWC 84TH ANNUAL TEA PRESENTS 'PORTS OF CALL'

For its 84th Annual Tea, the Catholic Women's Club (CWC) presented 'Ports of Call', wherein the members took their guests dancing around the ports of Manila, Spain, Mexico, China, Jamaica and India. It was held at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, yesterday at 3 p.m. This year's beneficiary was Elsie Gaches Village, a haven for special children afflicted with down syndrome, epilepsy, autism and related disorders. Special guest performers that sang American songs were stage and TV actor par excellence Chinggoy Alonso and the scintillating Pinky Marquez. Jeremy Vallejo choreographed the show while Cocoy Cordoba did the stage and decors to compliment the theme of the afternoon. Another special feature of the afternoon was the presentation of the blue and white Mother and Child limited edition plates by renowned international artist from Spain, Betsy Brias Westerndorf. Ballroom dancing followed after the program. In charge of this year's Annual Tea were CWC president Linda Pastronal, chair Nene Leonor, assisted by co-chairs Mabel Abano and Evelyn Duran and fellowship chair Myrna Borromeo. Other members of the working committee were Pillie Barrenechea, Baby Tan, Rose Hugo, Alice Dee and Carrie Bautista. Photo shows the committee members and some of the dancers: (seated from left) Sol Taan Gatue, Norie Ongsiako, Linda Pastoral (president), Nene Leonor (Annual Tea chair), Cecile Limjoco, Baby Tan; (standing from left) Carrie Bautista, Tess Castro, Mabel Abaño, Mardie Aguilar, Baby Gloria, Myrna Borromeo, Lydia Reyes, Tessie Briones, Evelyn Duran, Rose Hugo and Mila Lim.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS LAUNCHES 'ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAM'

Samsung Electronics Philippines Manufacturing Corp (Sephil), the world's leader in manufacturing optical media solution located in Calamba Premiere International Park (CPIP), Batino, Calamba City launched its 'Adopt A School' Program, a Community Relations project which is generally anchored in making a difference in the lives of almost 200 indigent children from Calamba Elementary School - Central 2. The said activity was done in June 30, in partnership with City Government of Calamba, City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) and Department of Education (Dep-ED). A plaque of appreciation was given to Sephil by the City Government Office for its continuous support to the solemn goal of the City of Calamba in the development of its every citizen in the fields of education, health, environment, sanitation, employment and public service.

Product FILES

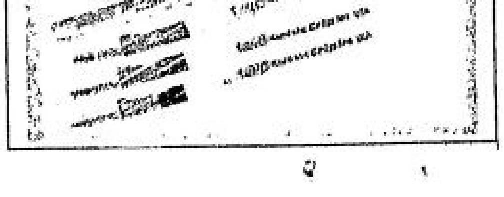
'Magbago Ka Na!' with VoZZ Menthol Candy

COLUMBIA Int'l Food Products Inc introduces a new cool treat: VoZZ Menthol candies. Feel the cool menthol flavor on your throat and enjoy the smooth, long-lasting shape on your tongue of VoZZ Menthol, Cherry, and Honey-Lemon flavor. Manufactured using a special deposited process, VoZZ has no air pockets and this creates a delicious menthol candy that is denser, smoother, and lasts longer. VoZZ's launch theme is very timely in today's environment as it asks people to change for the better or "Magbago Ka Na!" Experience the cool flavor and smooth texture of VoZZ menthol candy at your favorite sari-sari store, grocery and supermarket.

Columbia's
VoZZ
MENTHOL CANDY

Win a bike in Peek-A-Bic! Scratch Card promo

BIC Ballpen offers the Peek-A-Bic! Scratch Card promo wherein every P50 single purchase of any Bic or Tipp-Ex products entitles the customer to a Peek-A-Bic! Scratch Card. Just present your receipt/s to the senior Hallmark merchandise or to designated store personnel to avail of the corresponding Peek-A-Bic! Scratch Card/s and instantly win Bic ballpens or Hallmark cards. Prizes can be claimed on the spot or until Oct. 30 at the outlet where you made your purchase. The Peek-a-Bic! Scratch Card also doubles as a raffle coupon. Get a chance to win one of ten mountain bikes by filling up the raffle portion at the back of the scratch card. Drop it in designated drop boxes found in participating stores. Promo runs until Aug. 30. Deadline for dropping of entries is Oct. 30. The raffle draw will be held on Nov. 15.



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE ACCREDITATION OF THE DOMINANT MAJORITY PARTY AND THE DOMINANT MINORITY PARTY IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 08, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.
x---x

ABALOS, Benjamin S.,	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: 26 July 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7543

WHEREAS, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7166 provides that there shall be recognized six (6) principal watchers of the six (6) major political parties in the polling places and canvassing centers;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections has to accredit, the major political parties for purposes of the August 08, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in order to determine the Dominant Majority Party and Dominant Minority Party which will be furnished with copies of the election returns and certificates of canvass pursuant to Republic Act No. 8173.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other pertinent election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the accreditation of the major political parties and the Dominant Majority Party and Dominant Minority Party for the August 8, 2005 ARMM Elections, as follows:

SECTION 1. Criteria for accreditation. – The major political parties shall be determined by the Commission, on the basis of the following criteria:

(a.) The established record of the said parties, coalition or groups, that now comprises them, taking into account, among other things, their showing in past elections;
(b.) The number of incumbent elective officials belonging to them ninety (90) days before the date of elections;
(c.) Their identifiable political organizations and strengths as evidenced by their organized chapters;
(d.) The ability to field a complete slate of candidates from the Regional Assemblyman to the position of Regional Governor; and
(e.) Other analogous circumstances that may determine their relative organizations and strengths.

The first and second of accredited major political parties shall be the Dominant Majority Party and the Dominant Minority Party, respectively.

SEC. 2. Weighted average points. – The accreditation of the major political parties shall be established through weighted average points for each of the above criteria taking into consideration the primary purpose of the law, which is to protect the interest of the candidates and the parties they represent.

Thus, a party's ability to field a complete slate of candidates from Regional Assemblyman to Regional Governor is given the highest weighted average points of forty (40) points.

Since the ability to field a complete slate of candidates is dependent on the organizational structure of a party and the number of its incumbent elective officials, these two criteria are given the next two highest weighted average of twenty-five (25) points each.

History is given the least weighted average of ten (10) points since the number of years of existence of a party is not a guarantee that its has the capability to field a complete slate of candidates whose interests the law seeks to protect.

SEC. 3. – Evaluation process. – On the basis of the records on file with the Commission, of the political parties which fielded candidates in the August 8, 2005 ARMM elections, namely: Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), Liberal Party (LP), National People's Coalition (NPC) and Lakas-CMD, the evaluation of the Commission is as follows:

Criterion No. 1: "(a) The established record of the parties, coalition, or groups that now compose them, taking into account, among other things, their showing in past elections."

This factor is equated with the history of the political parties or the number of years they have been in existence since 1987, the affectivity of the 1987 Constitution.

Using 18 years as the equivalent of 10 points or 100%, the mean was arrived by adding together the number of years of existence of the four (4) political parties mentioned above. The sum is 49. The sum was divided by four (4) (the number of political parties under consideration) and the resulting quotient is 12.25 years, the mean or average corresponding to 50% of 10 points. To determine the points for each political party, the following procedure was adopted:

(1) If a political party's existence is less than (or equal to) the mean, the ratio between the number of years of existence and the average (12.25), multiplied by 50% yields the percentage to be credited to the party. The number of points earned will then be this percentage multiplied by 10 points.

(2) If the period of existence is more than the mean (or 12.25 years), the difference between the number of years of existence and 12.25 over the difference between 7 and 18 multiplied by 50% yield the percentage to be credited to the party for its years of actual existence in excess of 12.25 years. The 50% corresponding to the first 12.25 years of existence are then added to arrive at the total percentage to be credited to the political party. To obtain the number of points earned by the party, the percentage is multiplied by 10 points.

Applying the above criteria in arithmetical expression, the results are as follows:

1. LP $\frac{(18-12.25)}{(18-12.25)} \times 0.5 \times 0.5 \times 100 = 100.00$
2. LAKAS $\frac{11}{12.25} \times 0.5 \times 100 = 44.90$
3. NPC $\frac{13}{12.25} \times 0.5 \times 100 = 53.06$
4. PMP $\frac{7}{12.25} \times 0.5 \times 100 = 28.57$

The table representing the above data is presented hereunder:

POLITICAL PARTY	YEAR FOUNDED	YEARS IN EXISTENCE	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF POINTS
PMP	1998	7	28.57	2.86
LAKAS-CMD	1994	11	44.90	4.49
NPC	1992	13	53.06	5.31
LP	1987	18	100.00	10.0

Criterion No. 2: "(b) The number of incumbent elective officials belonging to them ninety days before the date of the elections."

In evaluating the strength of a political party on the basis of incumbent elected officials, the elective positions were classified into:

1. President/Vice President
2. Senators
3. Representative
4. Governor/Vice-Governor
5. Mayor/Vice Mayor
6. Provincial Board of Member/Municipal Councilors

The six positions were given weights in relation to the total possible 25 points on the basis of their impact on the national life of the country. Thus, the Office of the President/Vice-President, 5.50 points, Senators, 5.00 points; Representatives, 5.00 points; Governor/Vice-Governor, 4.00 points; Mayor/Vice-Mayor, 3.50 points; and Provincial Board Members/Municipal Councilor, 2.00 points.

With the above-data, the formula used to credit points to a political party, is the ratio between the number of incumbent elected officials claimed or listed by a political party divided by the maximum number of positions authorized to be elected nationwide, multiplied by the maximum points allotted to each category of positions.

The formula in arithmetical expression is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of incumbent elected officials}}{\text{Maximum number of political positions authorized to be elected nationwide}} \times \begin{array}{l} \text{5.50 pts. (for Pres./V-Pres.)} \\ \text{5.00 pts. (for Senators)} \\ \text{5.00 pts. (for Rep.)} \\ \text{4.00 pts. (for Gov./V-Gov.)} \\ \text{3.50 pts. (for Mayor/V-Mayor)} \\ \text{2.00 pts. (for Prov'l. Board Member/Councilor)} \end{array} = \text{points earned by a party}$$

On the basis of the records of the Commission, the four (4) political parties that fielded candidates in the August 8, 2005 ARMM Elections and the corresponding points credited to them are, as follows:

POLITICAL PARTY	PRES/ VICE-PRES.	SEN.	REP.	GOV./VICE-GOV.	MAYOR/ VICE-MAYOR	BOARD/ COUNCILORS	TOTAL	NO. OF POINTS
PMP		3	3	3	118	539	666	2.17
LAKAS-CMD	1	4	87	75	1493	5,696	7,356	24.60
LP		2	28	17	215	966	1,228	4.11
NPC			50	29	511	2,128	2,718	9.07

Criterion No. 3: "(c) Their identifiable political organizations and strengths as evidenced by their organized chapters."

Using 1,618 (total number of cities and municipalities nationwide) as the equivalent of 25 points or 100%, the ratio between the number of city, municipal and provincial chapters and the total number of cities and municipalities, multiplied by 25 points will yield the relative number of points earned by a political party. Let it be noted that although the total number of provinces (79) is not included in the total number of local geographical units as a divisor, this formula grants the political parties bonus for each provincial chapter, equivalent to a city municipal chapter. This criteria recognizes that the strength and national reach of a political party is its organization at the city/municipal level.

The formula in arithmetical expression is:

$$\frac{\text{Total Number of municipality/city provincial chapters}}{\text{Total number of municipalities and cities}} \times \text{25 points} = \text{Number of points by a political party}$$

The Commission using the candidates fielded in each city/municipality as additional basis for this criterion, the points credited to the four (4) political parties are as follows:

POLITICAL PARTY	PROVINCES	CITY	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	NO. OF POINTS
PMP	71	73	665	809	12.50
LAKAS-CMD	79	115	1220	1414	21.85
LP	70	42	563	675	10.43
NPC	63	23	453	539	8.33

Criterion No. 4: "(d) The ability to field a slate of candidates from the position of Regional Assemblyman to Regional Governor".

The position of Regional Governor/Vice-Governor was given 40 points, while the position of Regional Assemblyman was given 20 points, as follows:

POLITICAL PARTY	Regional Governor/ Vice Governor	Regional Assemblyman	Points
PMP	1	7	25.38
LAKAS-CMD	2	19	34.62
LP	2	12	29.23
NPC	-	1	0.77

It will be noted that subparagraph (c) of Sec. 26, Republic Act No. 7166 is couched under the general term "analogous circumstances" and leaves much of its implementation to the personal judgment of the members of the Commission. This criterion is unlike the circumstances prescribed in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) which are facts. It is better part of judgment, therefore, to omit this factor in the evaluation process.

On the basis of the weight average points given to each of the four (4) criteria, the ranking of the four (4) political parties, which applied for accreditation, is:

POLITICAL PARTY	HISTORY	INCUMBENTS	CHAPTERS	CANDIDATES	TOTAL	RANK
LAKAS-CMD	4.49	24.60	21.85	34.62	85.55	1
NPC	5.31	9.07	8.33	0.77	23.48	4
LP	10.0	4.11	10.43	29.23	53.77	2
PMP	2.86	2.17	12.50	25.38	42.91	3

SEC. 4. – Dominant Majority and Dominant Minority Parties. – On the basis of the foregoing considerations, the dominant majority party and dominant minority party for the August 8, 2005 ARMM elections are:

1. **LAKAS-CMD - Dominant Majority Party**
2. **Liberal Party (LP) - Dominant Minority Party**

SEC. 5. – Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 6. – Dissemination.- The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution and furnish copies thereof to the Regional Election Director of the ARMM, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers of Basilan, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the dominant majority party and dominant minority party.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS NUMBERED 7526, 7527, 7538 AND 7541, IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.
x------------------------------------x

PRESENT

ABALOS, Benjamin S.,	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: 26 July 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7544

WHEREAS, Section 5(2) of Resolution No. 7526, otherwise known as the Guidelines For Mass-Media Accreditation In Connection With The August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, promulgated on July 15, 2005, provides that:

> ***Section 5. Privileges.*** *- Duly accredited local and foreign media shall have the following provileges:*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***2. On Election Day:***
>
> *a) Observe the conduct of elections in any locality;*
> *b) Interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place;*
> *c) And document this by means of audio, video and audio-visual recordings, subject to the limitations provided herein and under pertinent laws.*

WHEREAS, Section 4 (B) of Resolution No. 7527, otherwise known as the Rules And Regulations On Foreign Observers In Connection With The August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, promulgated on July 15, 2005, provides that:

> ***Section 4. Privileges.*** *- Duly accredited observers shall have the following privileges:*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***B. On Election Day:***
>
> *Observe the conduct of elections in any locality, interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place, and document this by means of audio, video and audio-visual recordings, subject to the prohibition under Section 5 hereof.*

WHEREAS, Section 1 (A)(1) of Resolution No. 7538, otherwise known as the General Instructions for the Boards of Election Inspectors On The Casting And Counting Of Votes In Connection With The August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, promulgated on July 20, 2005, provides that:

> ***Section 1. Specialist Action Officer.*** *- The Commission, thru the Commissioner-In-Charge of a province, shall name, appoint and designate a Special Action Officer to each city or municipality in the ARMM region, if circumstances so warrant, who is preferably an Election Officer assigned outside of the ARMM.*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *A. Joint responsibility with the Election Officer*
>
> *1. Supervise the verification of ballots, election returns, election supplies and paraphernalia in the office of the city/municipal treasurer;*

WHEREAS, Section 57 of Resolution No. 7538, otherwise known as the General Instructions for the Boards of Election Inspectors On The Casting And Counting Of Votes In Connection With The August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, promulgated on July 20, 2005, provides that:

> ***Sec. 57. Special procedures.*** *- The express provisions of this resolution notwithstanding, the Commission may, in exceptional cases, adopt special procedures in the transmission, storage, custody, distribution and retrieval of accountable forms and paraphernalia to fulfill its constitutional mandate to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.*

WHEREAS, the last two paragraphs of Section 1 of Resolution No. 7541, otherwise known as the General Instructions Governing The Canvassing Of Votes In Connection With The August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, promulgated on July 20, 2005, provide that:

> ***Section 1. Board of Canvassers; composition; substitution.*** *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***The Provincial Board of Canvassers*** *shall be composed of the:*
>
> *1) Provincial Election Supervisor of the province concerned or a ranking lawyer of the Commission, as Chairman;*
> *2) Provincial Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairman; and*
> *3) Division Superintendent of Schools, as Member-Secretary.*
>
> *In case of non-availability, absence or disqualification due to relationship or incapacity for any cause of the chairman and members of the provincial board of canvassers, the Commissioner-In-Charge shall, subject to the confirmation by the Commission en banc, appoint lawyers of the Commission as substitutes.*

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend the above provisions and to clarify procedures for ensuring the holding of free, honest, orderly, peaceful and credible August 8, 2005 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 (Omnibus Election Code), Republic act 6646, and other election laws, hereby **RESOLVED** to promulgated, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to promulgate, the following amendments and clarifications to the above resolutions:

Section 1. ***Amendment to Resolution No. 7526*** - Section 5 (2)(b) of Resolution No. 7526, is hereby amended to read as follows:

> ***Section 5. Privileges.*** *- Duly accredited local and foreign media shall have the following privileges:*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***2. On Election Day:***
>
> *b) Interview voters, political leaders and other individuals; provided that such interview shall not disrupt the proceedings of the board of election inspectors or be conducted in such a manner as will impede the movement of the voters to and from the polling place; provided further that the presence, names and media organization being represented by the local and foreign media who are inside the polling place are duly noted in the minutes of voting and counting; and provided finally, that the local and foreign media shall at all times be under the authority of the boards of election inspectors while inside the polling place;*

Section 2. *Amendment to Resolution No. 7527* - Section 4 (B) of Resolution No. 7527, is hereby amended to read as follows:

> ***Section 4. Privileges*** *- Duly accredited observers shall have the following privileges:*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***B. One Election Day:***
>
> *Observe the conduct of elections in any locality, interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place, and document this by means of audio, video and audio-visual recordings, subject to the prohibition under Section 5 hereof, provided that such interview shall not disrupt the proceedings of the board of election inspectors or be conducted in such as manner as will impede the movement of the voters to and from the polling place; provided further that the presence, names and organization being represented by the foreign observers who are inside the polling place are duly noted in the minutes of voting and counting; and provided finally, that the foreign observers shall at all times be under the authority of the boards of election inspectors while inside the polling place.*

Sec. 3 *Amendment to Resolution No. 7538*. - Section 1 (A)(1) of Resolution No. 7538 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> ***Section 1. Special Action Officer.*** *- The Commission, thru the Commissioner-in-Charge of a province, shall name, appoint and designate a Special Action Officer to each city or municipality in the ARMM region, if circumstances so warrant, who is preferably an Election Officer assigned outside of the ARMM.*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *B. Joint responsibility with the Election Officer*
>
> 2. Supervise the verification of ballots, and election supplies and paraphernalia, other than those which shall be used for counting, in the office of the city/municipal treasurer

SEC. 4. *Amendment to Resolution No. 7541.* – The last paragraph of Section 1 of Resolution No. 7541, is hereby amended to read as follows:

> ***Section 1. Board of Canvassers; composition; substitution.*** *– xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *In case of non-availability, absence or disqualification due to relationship or incapacity for any cause of the chairman, the Commissioner-in-Charge shall appoint as substitute, a ranking lawyer of the Commission. With respect to the other members of the board, the Commissioner-in-Charge shall appoint as substitute the following, in the order named: the Provincial Auditor the Registrar of Deeds, the Clerk of Court nominated by the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court, and any other available appointive provincial official. In case of the non-availability, absence or disqualification of the said substitutes, or whenever the exigency of the service so requires, the Comissioner-in-Charge shall, subject to the confirmation by the Commission en banc, appoint lawyers of the Commission as substitutes*

SEC. 6. Verification, storage and custody of election returns, tally board and other forms and supplies to be used for counting. – Upon receipt of the election forms, supplies and paraphernalia, the Provincial Treasurer shall, in coordination with the District Team Leader designated by the Commissioner-in-Charge and with due notice to watchers of candidates, political parties and representatives of the citizens' arm, verify the election returns, tally board and other election forms and supplies to be used in the counting, and thereafter issue the same upon proper receipt to the District Team Leader concerned. The AFP/PNP and the watchers of candidates, political parties, citizens arm and civil society shall keep round the clock watch of the area where these accountable forms and supplies are kept.

The District Team Leader shall then take custody of and assume full responsibility over the election returns, tally board and other election forms and supplies to be used in the counting until the issuance thereof to the Special Action Officers concerned at the Centralized Counting Center for distribution to the boards of election inspectors.

SEC. 7. Repealing clause. – All resolutions and orders inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, and in two (2) local newspapers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 9. Dissemination. – Let the Education and Information Department, this Commission, cause the publication of this resolution and furnish copies thereof to the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisors, and all Election Officers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - July 28, 2005)

PLANTING HOPE

BUILDING OUR FOREST,

In 2001, CalEnergy completed the state-of-the-art Casecnan irrigation and hydroelectric power facility. The facility is nestled between Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya and harnesses the water generated from the Casecnan watershed to irrigate the farmlands of Central Luzon and to supplement the energy requirement of Luzon. To help preserve the watershed, CalEnergy bored through the Caraballo Mountains to build a 26-kilometer tunnel and powerhouse that has left the forest unharmed.

The Caraballo Mountains traversing Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija, used to be a dense primary forestland. But in the 1980s, the forests of the Caraballo Mountains were slowly being decimated due to illegal logging, kaingin farming, mining and conversion of forestland to agricultural land.

Deforested areas of the mountains include portions of the Casecnan watershed, which not only provides shelter and habitat for wildlife but more importantly provides water for drinking, irrigation, farming, industrial use, and recreation for the communities in and around the watershed.

To arrest the increasing deforestation and in support of the government program on watershed rehabilitation and environmental protection, CalEnergy has taken the lead in rehabilitating the Casecnan watershed.

In February 2005, CalEnergy launched the Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program, which aims to rehabilitate more than 3,500 hectares of forestland over a period of six years.

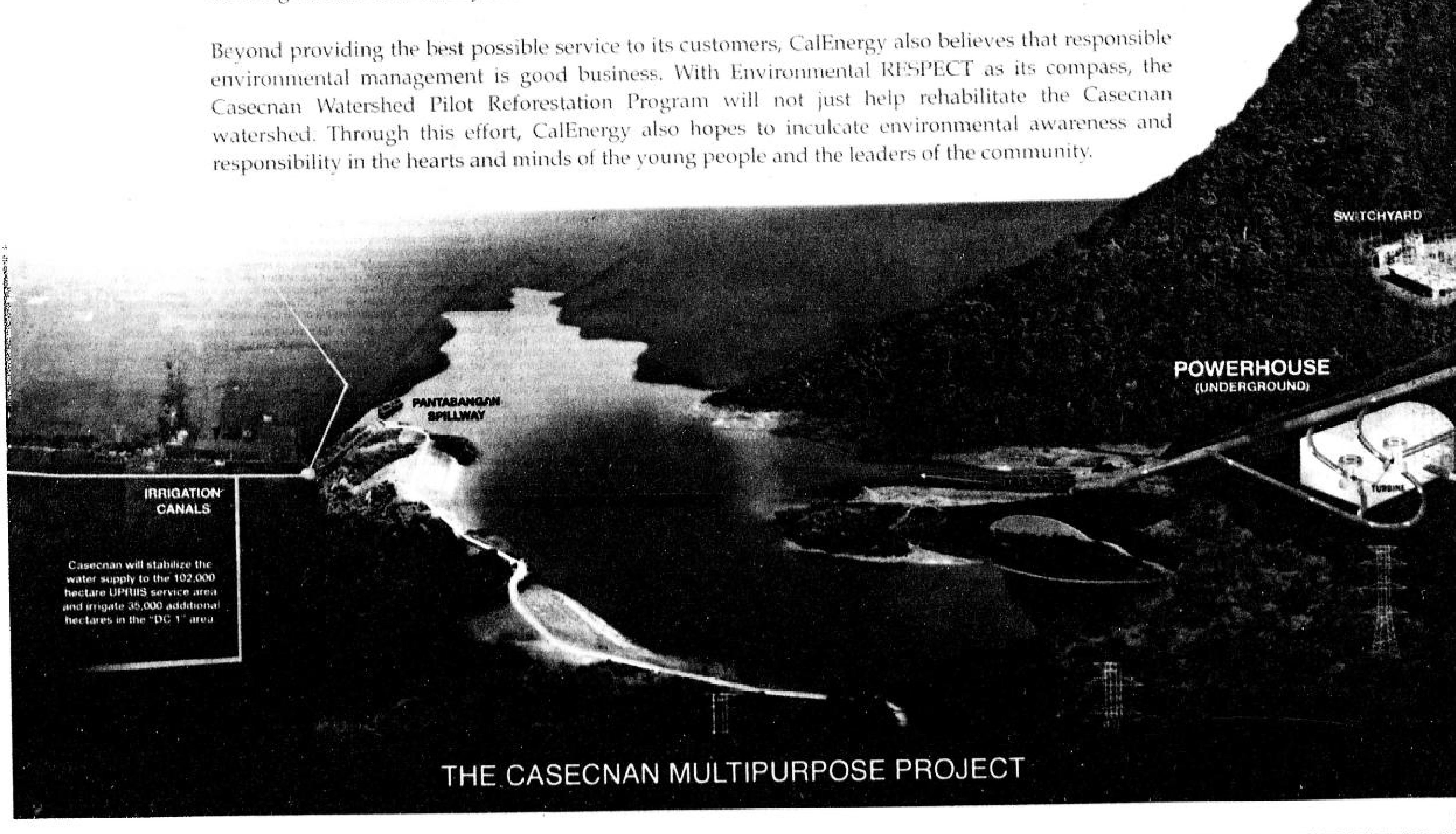
The program kicked-off with the Give-a-Seed campaign. The campaign was intended to create environmental awareness of school children and was participated by 27 schools in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya. School children were encouraged to contribute to the reforestation by collecting seeds in exchange for school supplies, reference materials, and computer sets. After two months, the children, supported by their parents and teachers, donated close to 4,000 kilos of Ipil-Ipil and Acacia seeds, which will be used for the aerial seeding of steep mountain slopes.

Today, the reforestation program moves to its second phase. Families participating in the family approach reforestation scheme will commence planting of 200,000 seedlings in some 100 hectares of the lower Casecnan watershed. Officers and representatives of the National Irrigation Administration, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and the local governments will also participate in the aerial seeding of over 500 hectares of forestland.

Thereafter, for the next five years, tree planting and aerial seeding will be implemented until the pilot reforestation area is covered. Moreover, to ensure full coverage of the pilot reforestation area, an annual replanting activity will be undertaken to replace seedling mortalities over the next five years.

Aside from revitalizing the Casecnan watershed, the six-year reforestation program also seeks to increase the awareness of the community on the importance of the watershed and the need to preserve and protect it from degradation. The family approach reforestation scheme is also a means of livelihood for the participating families as they will be compensated for their stewardship of the seedlings for the next three years.

Beyond providing the best possible service to its customers, CalEnergy also believes that responsible environmental management is good business. With Environmental RESPECT as its compass, the Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program will not just help rehabilitate the Casecnan watershed. Through this effort, CalEnergy also hopes to inculcate environmental awareness and responsibility in the hearts and minds of the young people and the leaders of the community.



Casecnan will stabilize the water supply to the 102,000 hectare UPRIIS service area and irrigate 35,000 additional hectares in the "DC 1" area

THE CASECNAN MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

PLANTING HOPE

BUILDING OUR FOREST.

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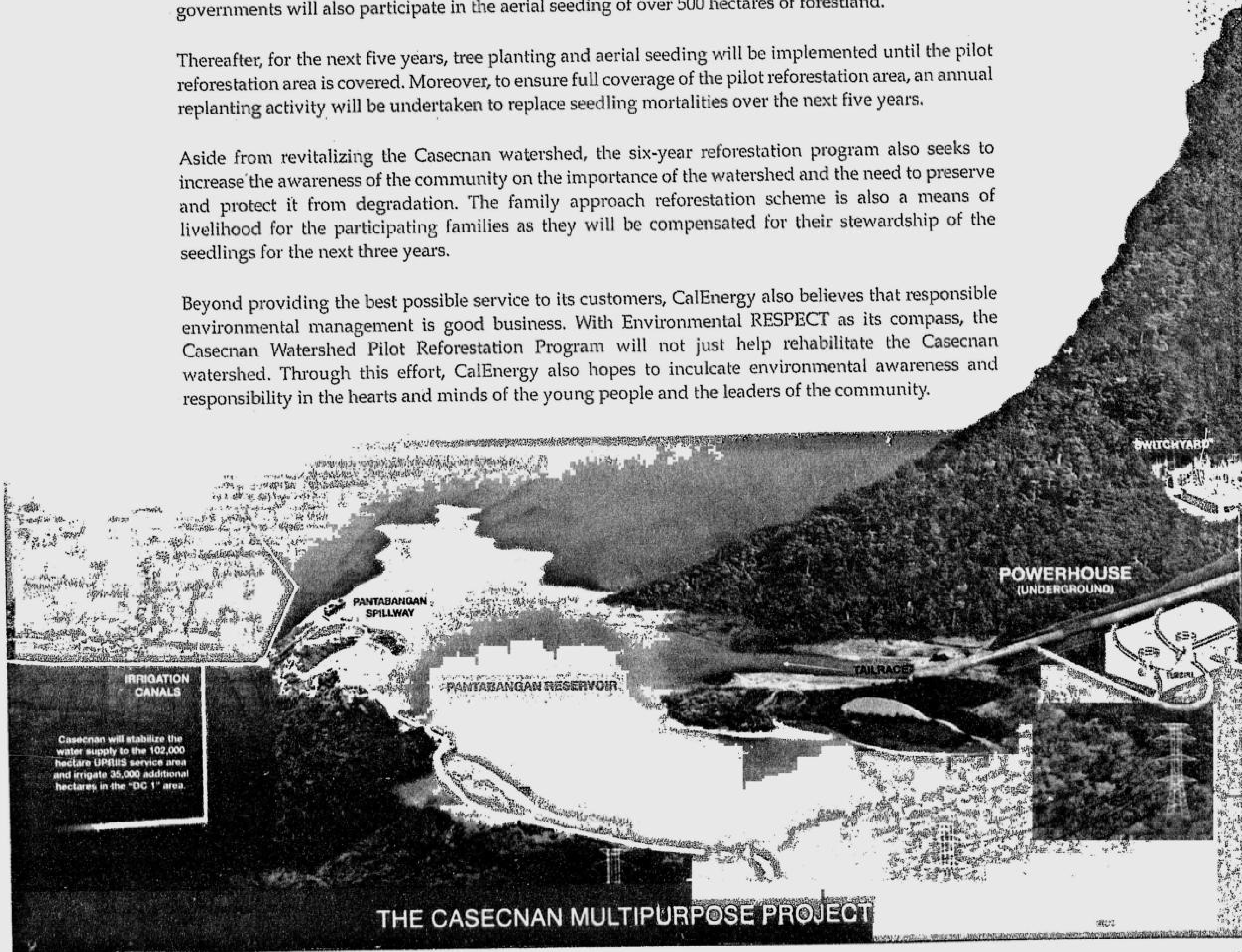


Casecnan will stabilize the water supply to the 102,000 hectare UPRIIS service area and irrigate 35,000 additional hectares in the "DC 1" area.

THE CASECNAN MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

FOR TOMORROW

BUILDING THE FUTURE

ReLeaf for the Future

There are many reasons to plant trees, but the most important of all is simply to invest in the future. We plant trees because we believe in the future. Because we care about the quality of life for the generations we will never even meet.

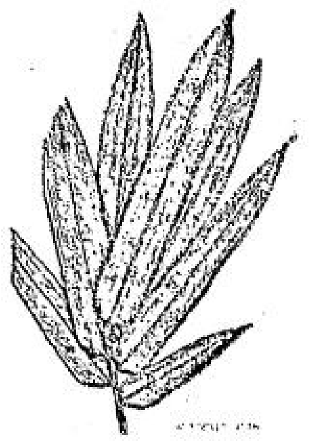
Our existing forest and the trees we plant should work in tandem to make reforestation work. The choice of a suitable tree species is important in the restoration of the ecosystem.

Oxygen – Trees help clean the air we breathe through photosynthesis. We could not exist as we do if there were no trees. Trees act as a giant filter that cleans the air we breathe.

A mature leafy tree like the **NARRA TREE** can produce as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.

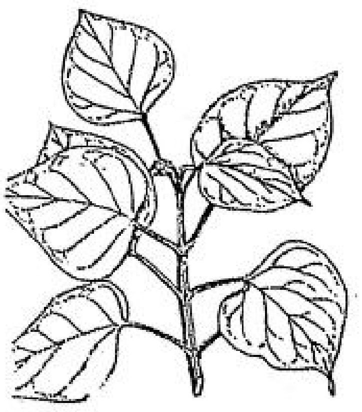
Absorbs water — Because of the storage capacity of trees, it keeps water in the streams, even during the dry season. Some species of trees, either planted or growing wild, can intercept more than 1000 gallons of water annually when fully grown.

The **BAMBOO TREE** is ideal for riverbank stabilization, soil conservation, windbreaks, and shelter breaks.



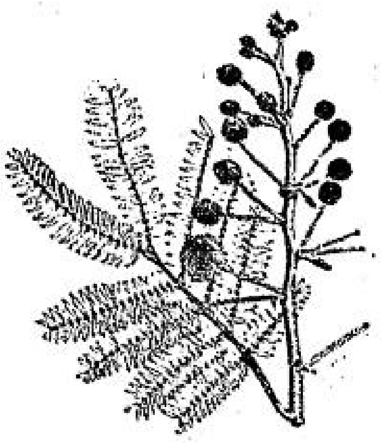
Cleans the Soil – Trees can absorb dangerous chemicals and other pollutants that have entered the soil. Trees can either store harmful pollutants or actually change the pollutant into less harmful forms.

Trees like the **ACHUETE** can filter sewage and farm chemicals, reduce the effects of animal wastes, clean roadside spills and clean water runoff into streams.



Habitat — Trees provide food and shelter to forest animals such as monkeys and birds. Reforesting can also restore certain tree species crucial to endangered birds.

The **GMELINA TREE**'s leaves are browsed by livestock to eat the foliage and bark. The flowers produce abundant nectar from which high-quality honey is produced.



Fights Erosion —Tree roots bind the soil and their leaves break the force of wind and rain on soil. Trees fight soil erosion, conserve rainwater and reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms.

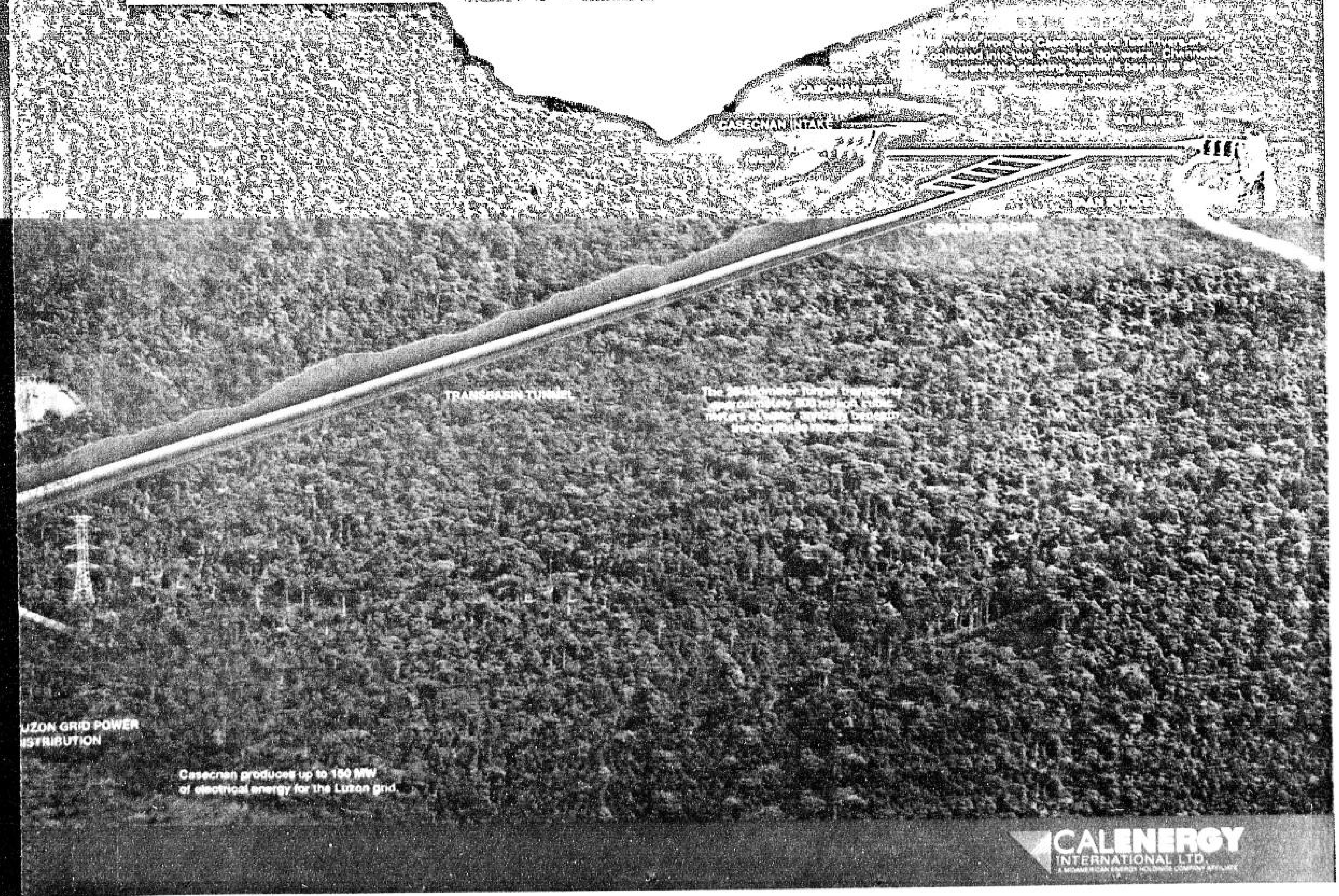
The **IPIL-IPIL TREE** is desirable for reducing erosion, increasing crop yields and increased spring flow.

Carbon sequestering — To produce its food, a tree absorbs and locks away carbon dioxide, a global warming suspect. As long as they are not burned or allowed to rot, the wood will lock up carbon, helping to slow global warming.

Trees like the **ACACIA TREE** are good hoarders of carbon. This is why the acacia is a common roadside tree to reduce urban pollution.

Income — Reforestation projects that are well-run provide a good source of income for those who invest in them and can provide a living inheritance for the next generation.

Reforestation can generate employment by creating **ORCHARD and FRUIT-BEARING TREE** farms that help break the cycle of clear-cutting forest to grow cattle or crops for market.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE JOSE MILAN DAYAO SR., BY HIS LEGAL HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 222; PAGE NO. 46; BOOK NO. 06; SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC HILARION T. OMADTO, JR. OF MANDALUYONG CITY
(PDI-July 21, 28 & Aug. 4, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Henedina Y. de Luna was extrajudicially settled by her heirs with waiver of right as per Doc. No. 173 & 174, Page No. 35, Book No. 66, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Nelly B. Molina of San Juan (PDI-July 24, 31 & Aug. 7, 2005)

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE ANTONIO C. MARTINEZ FELINA C. MARTINEZ AND LUCIANO C. MARTINEZ PER DOC. NO. 331 PAGE NO. 68 BOOK NO 1 SERIES OF 2005 OF THE NOTARIAL REGISTER OF ATTY LENITA O. MENDOZA PDI-JULY 28, AUGUST4 &11,2005

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NEWLONG INDUSTRIES PHILS., INC.

NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby notified of the loss of tax credit certificate bearing SN 004556, 003991, 004628, 004510, 004446, 004569, 003892 with face value total to P4,035,261.00 issued to Newlong Industries Philippines, Inc. by DOF – One Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center.

The TCC shall no longer be honored or accepted in payment of any liability to the government.

(PDI–July 28, 2005)

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Qualifications:
- College graduate
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- 2 years management experience
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- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:
- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
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- Carpenter Foremen
- Scaffolding Foremen
- Autocad Draughtsman
- X-Steel Autocad Draughtsman
- Foremen/Supervisors
- Laboratory Technicians
- Mobile Crane Operators
- Computer Operators
- Heavy Duty Truck Drivers
- Heavy Equipment Drivers
- Heavy Equipment Mechanics
- Heavy Equipment Electricians
- Male Secretaries
- Light Duty Drivers
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DOWNSTREAM AMMONIA PLANT
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POWER & WATER PLANT
Power plant including Distillation / Desalination

MARINE / SUPPORT OPERATIONS
Construction, Engineering and operation

BAHRAIN PROJECT

B-0149 - MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 10 years in Oil & Gas Production Field

B-0150 - INSPECTION ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 15 years in Oil & Gas Equipment Inspection

B-0151 - MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 15 years in Oil & Gas Equipment Inspection

B-0152 - MECHANICAL DRAFTSMAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 8 years in Oil & Gas Industry

B-0153 - AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 5 years in Oil & Gas Industry

UAE PROJECT

UAE-0400 - MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 10 years in Rotating Equipment Maintenance and at least 5 years in Oil & Gas Company

UAE-0401 - ASST. MECHANICAL SECTION HEAD
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- at least 10 years in Mechanical Rotating/Static Equipment (gas, turbine, composer, pumps, etc)

UAE-0402 - LOG ANALYST
- BS Geology
- 8 years in well-site geology, sub-surface geology, loggin operation, interpretation and computer usage.

UAE-0403 - DCS SYSTEMS ENGINEER
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Regional Center for Visayas, 3rd-Floor Gemini Bldg.
719 M.J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City

POEA Davao City
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Ms. Angelica Suiza
Marketing Director
Adidas Philippines, Inc.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP: THE GATEWAY EXPERIENCE
Ms. Grace Magno
Marketing Director
Araneta Group of Companies

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BULACAN

H. MARCOS 'BOY' V. CALO

A Knight, A Jaycee, An Atenean
A Man For Others

October 21, 1943 - July 25, 2005

His wife **Margarita Villarica**,
his children **Tantan**, **Macky** and **Bene**,

His siblings **Susan** and **Johnny Medina**,
Eleanor and **Federico Galang**,
Salvador and **Nene Calo**

His nieces and nephews **Ching** and **John Crack**,
Mark Medina, **Lui Medina**, **Ricky Galang**, **Reggie Galang**,
RJ Galang, **Robin Galang**, **BJ Calo** and **Miko Calo**

His grandniece **Sophia Medina Crack**

His cousins **Nandong** and **Edna**, **Dado** and **Minda**
Vering, **Alice**, **Cina** and **Thelma**, **Oloy**

request the faithful to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at his residence at
Marcos Calo Street, Butuan City.

Burial will be on Wednesday, August 3, 2005
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral,
Butuan City.

In Loving Memory on the
1st Death Anniversary
of the late

PLENIO S. BRION, SR.

Retired CPO U.S. N.
of San Pablo City and Tandang Sora, Quezon City

who passed away on July 28, 2004

His wife **IMELDA SAHAGUN BRION**; sons **PLENIO JR.** and **PLENIO II**; daughter-in-law **CRIS PACALDO BRION**; sisters **Lina** and **Carmelita**; brother-in-law **Sonny Ramos**; brother **Nonilon**; sister-in-law **Evangeline Junsay Brion**; and relatives request their friends and the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy masses will be offered on July 28, 2005 at the following churches:

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *UP Diliman, Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish, *Tandang Sora, Q.C.*	6:30 p.m.
Saint Paul the 1st Hermit Cathedral, *San Pablo City*	5:30 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church, *San Pablo City*	7:00 a.m.
Mission Basilica, *San Juan Capistrano, Ca. USA*	11:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Monastery, *Hales Corners, Wisconsin, USA*	8:00 a.m.

"And the time has come for my departure,
I have finished the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept my faith."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

Message of Thanks

We, the family of our dearly beloved

BRIGIDA "Bidang" C. FERRER

who passed away in the grace of our Lord on July 14, 2005

wish to express our sincerest appreciation to all of you,
our relatives and friends who offered masses, prayers, sent flowers,
mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us,
and expressed in many countless ways your love, concern,
condoled with and comforted us during our time
of bereavement.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **FCQ WORLD WIDE, INC.**, with address at **Ting's Apt., F. Llamas St., Punta Princesa, Cebu City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226 as a **New Export Producer of Costume Jewelry** at a capacity of **400,000 Pieces Per Year** and with proposed plant site at **Tabucanal, Pardo, Cebu City** has been officially accepted on **July 25, 2005** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CANA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–July 28, 2005)

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ERRATUM

In the advertisement of Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) published July 27, 2005, the signature of Mr. Gerardo A. Pinili was inadvertently placed above the name of Mr. Felix S. Racadio.
Our apologies

CREBA SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION-JOB FAIR RIBBON CUTTING

TONETTE Velasco, assistant secretary of Department of Labor (third from left) and Housing Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Amado Bagatsing (fourth from right) cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of Creba Social Housing at Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City on July 27. Also shown (from left) are: Jesse Rebustillo, Inquirer Classifieds division head, Victor Fernandez, Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (Pasel) president, Creba officers Harold Dacumos, Reymar Mansilungan, Efren Alas, Flor Ofrecio, The Jobfair is in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer which will open from July 27 to 28.

NFA Antique intensifies palay buying

THE NATIONAL Food Authority in San Jose, Antique is intensifying its palay procurement to beef up the province's buffer stock. The agency targets to buy 62,000 bags of palay for the year 2005. The agency buys clean and dry palay at the support price of P10.00/kg with P0.15/kg drying incentive and P0.10/kg delivery incentive for farmers who deliver directly to the NFA grains centers. For cooperatives, an additional P0.25/kg Cooperative Development Incentive Fee (CDIF) is also granted.

NFA provincial manager Procopio B. Trabajo II said that the agency gives farmers better income from their investment through the government support price. Farmers without passbooks will be allowed to deliver/sell to NFA a maximum of 50 bags for their initial delivery. Then, they will be assisted by NFA to acquire their passbook for the succeeding deliveries. The agency has already simplified its farmer/master passbook accreditation requirements. Permanent NFA buying stations in Antique are located in Camp Fullon Grains Center in San Fernando, San Jose and Culasi Grains Center in Barangay Caridad, Culasi.

NREA holds mid-year Parangal

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA) will hold its Mid-Year Meeting and Testimonial Dinner on July 29, at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila it was announced by Exec. Vice President Alejandro S. Mañalac, parangal chair.

Dubbed as Parangal 2005, this annual tradition honors outstanding and exemplary achievements by government officials and private individuals who contributed significantly toward the improvement of life of the Filipino people. Chairman Bayani F. Fernando of Metro Manila Development Authority is main speaker.

Among the honorees are CHED Chair Dr. Carlito S. Puno, DENR Secretary Michael T. Defensor, PITC president and PHILSOC SEA Games Chair Roberto M. Pagdanganan and HUDCC Secretary General Lucille P. Ortile.

From the private sector are leading architects Felino A. Palafox, Jr. as the First Filipino graduate in Advanced Management Development Program for Real Estate Entrepreneurs and Senior Managers from Harvard University in 2003 and Nestor S. Mangio as PRC 2005 Most Outstanding Professional in Architecture; NREA VP-External Gilda C. Lim, new lady president of Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas; NREA PRO Marissa del Mar, charter president of Rotary Club of Makati Nielsen, and NREA external auditor Ramon M. Veluz, president of Rotary Club of Makati Bonifacio.

Presentors are HLURB CEO Butch Fabul, HDMF president Miro Quimbo, NHMFC president Celso del Angeles, HGC chief Bong Bongolan, NHA GM Ri Laxa and architect Ric Poblete of Architectscope. The affair also coincides with the birthday celebration of NREA President & Founder Jose "Ka Pepe" Manala Special guests are the surviving incorporators of the association

Sponsors for the event are : Century Communitie Corporation, Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc., Filinve Land, Inc., Extraordinary Development Corporation Rubert James Exhibit Masters, First Quadra Philippines, Inc., The Lakeshore Marketing, Inc., Hun Douglas Philippines, Inc., Casimiro Group of Companies, Honeycomb Builders, Inc. and UD Homes, Inc.

Death Notices

HERMILANDO "KA EMING" C. ALCALA

Now peacefully rests in the grace and goodness or our Lord on July 25, 2005 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Quezon Avenue Extension Cotta, Lucena City. Interment will be at the Lucena Memorial Park RedV, Lucena City on July 29, 2005.

VICTORIA KATIGBAK AFRICA

Joined our Creator on July 25, 2005.

Her remains lie in state at the San Lorenzo Chapel of the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish, Katipunan Ave. cor. Pansol St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Interment will be on July 29, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Ave., Tañong, Marikina City.

CAROLINA DIESTA DEDUQUE

Peacefully joined our Creator and her loving husband, ex-Mayor Salvador Deduque on July 24, 2005.

Interment will be on August 1, 2005 at the Bacon Catholic Cemetery.

DR. VERDADES PANILA JIMENEZ

Now peacefully rests in the grace and goodness of our Lord on July 25, 2005.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment to be announced later.

EVELINA KALAW KATIGBAK PINES

August 9, 1916 – July 28, 2004

"We have to pass by this world
and remember
that it is how you lived that counts,
it must be that, like me
you should have no regrets."

These are the words of
Evelina Kalaw Pines,
***Mommy** to Jun, Dory and Grace.*
***Nona** to Pia, Rissa, Cecile, Joana,*
Giles, Maya, Mario, Mona, Andrea,
Mookie, Ruby, Dondi, Mikey, Ina,
Bobbie, Anton, Joey, Cassie and Selina.
***Evelina** to Aaron and her dear friends.*

It has been a year since she died but we still feel her strength, courage and energy inspiring and constantly reminding us to live life so that, like her, we too may have no regrets.

We are grateful to her friends who wept with us, as well as celebrated the life that was so gloriously lived from the first breath to the last.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Mindanao

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirca ya, sulit pa!*

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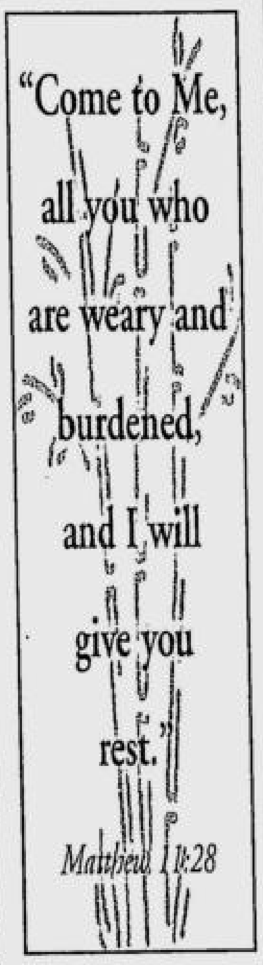
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.



"Come to Me,
all you who
are weary and
burdened,
and I will
give you
rest."
Matthew 11:28

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **Architectural and Engineering (A & E) Design Consultancy Services** for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Butuan. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is **P5.63 Million.**

The scope of the work includes among others the preparation of plans, specifications and detailed estimates to include architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural, electronics and communication, plumbing/sanitary and landscaping works as specified in the Terms of Reference.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) engaging in the lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this invitation.

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) **A&E design Consultancy Services** for at least three (3) completed new construction projects of similar nature like office buildings, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar or greater magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance from the client for at least two (2) of the required three (3) projects.

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least fifteen (15) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A&E design.

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s, Civil Engineer/s, Professional Mechanical Engineer/s and Professional Electrical Engineer/s with at least ten (10) years design experience.

5.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen, (Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines.

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A and E Design Consultancy Services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

7.0 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on **July 21 to 29, 2005** for a non-refundable fee of P200.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on **August 05, 2005**.

The provisions of **Republic Act No. 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–July 20 & 28, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) requires the construction of a 69 KV sub-transmission line from structure number 21 of PERMEX transmission line in Ayala to ZAMBOECOZONE First Industrial Park, with a total distance of 4.4 circuit kilometer, in a 65-footer pre-stress concrete poles in a vertical construction standard utilizing silicon post insulator in a 336.4 ACSR conductor. Likewise, installation of a circuit breaker and disconnect switches at TRANSCO Tulungatung tapping point, to include line rehabilitation of PERMEX Line Structure #11 to Structure 21.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO & 64/100 PESOS ONLY (15,061,622.64)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)** on **August 1-8, 2005** at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **August 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before **August 15, 2005.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **August 30-September 7, 2005**.
6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **September 23, 2005 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 6, 2005 at 10:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 23/100 only (P150,616.23)**. GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Three Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty & 57/100 (P376,540.57)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 6, 2005 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **October 6, 2005 at 10:00 AM.**
8. Completion of the Works is required by Ninety-two (92) Calendar Days.
9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI–July 21 & 28, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : August 9, 2005, 2:00 P.M., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
SCHEDULE – I	
1. One (1) lot of scrap metal consisting of metal sheets forms, steel buoy, steel chain, frames and various types of steel cabinets located at Re-Greening Field Office and Rad-Waste Building, BNPP, Morong, Bataan.	P 882,640.00/lot
2. One (1) lot junk items consisting of unserviceable substations equipment, batteries, radiators, heat sink, junk motor vehicles located at Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac	P 78,050.00/lot
3. One (1) lot various unserviceable storage tanks, 11 units and assorted scrap metals consisting of substation equipment, empty drums, located at Bataan Thermal Power plant, Limay, Bataan	P 338,223.00/lot
4. One (1) lot unserviceable power cable located at Mak-Ban GTPP Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 3,132,000.00/lot
5. One (1) lot of Amlan, Pipeline, located at Amlan, Negros Oriental	P 70,400.00/lot
SCHEDULE – II	
1. Barite 8,010 bags, 100 lbs per bag located at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant, Tiwi, Albay	p 502,627.50/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER
3. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER

INTERESTED PARTY WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORM MUST PRESENT ONE (1) VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. OIC, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. I, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM, August 8, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – July 27, 28 & 29, 2005)

PNOC
PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the project:

REPAIR OF ELEVEN (11) DEFECTIVE COMPENSATORS INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF BELLOWS
EDC 05-070-1

The Approved Budget is **PhP 2,399,765.46** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 186 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o N.A. Nicolasora) starting July 21, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin. Complex Conference Room, Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF). Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on August 25, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--July 28, 2005)

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BUSINESS

DOF looks into jewelers' tax compliance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would look into the tax compliance of jewelers and other businesses engaged in the sale of luxury items.

The move was prompted by the poor tax collection performance of the government in this sector.

Quoting a previous government estimate, Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said there was a year when the government collected only P500,000 in taxes from jewelers. The figure, he said, had convinced the government it should investigate the tax compliance of businesses selling luxury products in the past several years.

The finance official, likewise, said the DOF wanted to develop a system that would help the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency, to detect evasion in the payment of excise taxes on luxury items.

"It (tax collection from the sale of luxury item) is one area where the BIR can further improve its tax collection. I wonder how many of the yacht owners in Roxas Boulevard paid excise tax," he said.

For its part, the BIR Internal Revenue said that to improve the government's revenue collection from businesses selling luxury items, it had to tighten its monitoring of the importation of these products and check whether they were slapped the proper duties.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the agency was barred from collecting excise taxes from all jewelers, as the Jewelers Act exempts local jewelers registered with the Board of Investments from paying excise tax.

Looking into the tax compliance of businesses selling luxury items in the past years formed part of the DOF's action plans that were aimed at improve revenue collections from its sector.

Another measure, which would involve legislation, is the expansion of the list of luxury products and services covered by the excise tax.

An earlier proposal sought the inclusion of products and services considered non-essential in this list. These include cosmetology services, such as liposuction and facelift.

Although they may not be luxurious, soft drinks are also among those proposed for inclusion in the list because they are considered non-essential.

Improving the government's tax collection from businesses selling luxury and non-essential items is one of the measures the DOF is looking at to pursue the second phase of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform program.

The first phase involved efforts that saw the approval of the Sin tax law, the Lateral Attrition law and the Expanded Value-Added Tax law. The implementation of the VAT Law, however, was suspended earlier by the Supreme Court.

The DOF said the second phase would also include the legislation of the simplified net income tax system and the rationalization of fiscal incentives granted to investors.

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A WOMAN counts peso bills at a money shop in Manila. Analysts and traders believe that the revaluation of the Chinese yuan will help strengthen the peso, which has lost ground in recent weeks due to political tensions over opposition efforts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo. AFP PHOTO

PGMA, DOE pushing for approval of bill on renewable energy

By Abigail L. Ho

IN VIEW of the continued escalation of world oil prices, Malacañang and the Department of Energy are now strongly pushing for the passage of a renewable energy bill in Congress.

This is aimed at helping ease the country's dependence on imported oil.

In her State of the Nation Address on Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave specific directions to Congress to pass a renewable energy bill as soon as possible.

In line with the President's pronouncement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla committed to personally work closely with Congress for the approval of the bill.

"Oil prices have remained at unprecedented highs, at more than $50 per barrel. The President's decision to declare the renewable energy bill as one of the two priority legislative measures of the administration speaks of her strong resolve to tackle the oil crisis," he said in a statement.

"This also gives impetus to our efforts to move forward our energy program. With oil becoming more and more expensive, it makes renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro, geothermal, solar and biomass more competitive," he added.

He noted that the expanded value-added tax law, which was still under a Supreme Court temporary restraining order, provided a zero-VAT rating for renewable sources of power and fuel.

The DOE is now holding focus group discussions with industry stakeholders to determine the issues and concerns related to the renewable energy bill.

"We are positive that Congress will act on the measure swiftly," he said.

At the House of Representatives, the pending renewable energy bill is a consolidation of six separate bills that all aim to boost renewable energy development and use in the country.

Epixtar expanding flagship center in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MIAMI-BASED Epixtar Corp. yesterday announced it was raising about $6.5 million or about P364 million to fund the full development of its call center in Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City.

Epixtar president Irving Greenman said in a statement that the company had tapped Laurus Master Fund Ltd. to spearhead the fund raising activity.

The additional fund will help "accelerate the development" of the firm's largest site in the country.

The Eastwood City call center, one of the four Epixtar call centers in the Philippines, presently has about 800 agents.

Greenman said Epixtar Philippines IT-Enabled Services Corp.' Eastwood City site would employ about 2,500 agents when it becomes fully operational later this year.

The executive said Epixtar's "rapid growth continues as demonstrated by this new agreement (with Laurus Masterfund), the fast ramp-up of our Eastwood facility, and the development of meaningful business relationships with recognized global brands."

Many of Epixtar's clients belong to the Fortune 500 companies, particularly those involved in financial services and telecommunications businesses.

The company, which started operating its own facilities in the country in 2002, provides outbound tele-sales services.

"We have been very encouraged by the level of interest in our services, the loyalty of our clients, and the enthusiasm of our agents," Greenman said.

"Given the accelerating trend of the offshore business processing business, we are confident that we will maintain our current level of growth."

Citing a recent McKinsey study, he said the number of jobs being farmed out of the United States would likely grow to 4.1 million by 2008 from 1.5 million in 2003.

Epixtar currently operates four call center facilities in the country. Its other centers are in Alabang in Muntinlupa City, Makati City and at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The four sites account for a total of about 3,000 call center seats. Epixtar hopes to have 5,000 seats by the end of 2005.

The Makati site was added through a $20-million acquisition of a Kansas-based call center firm Innovative Marketing Strategies Inc.

The said the deal meant Epixtar would fully acquire IMS' Philippine unit, IMS Asia, which is located in Makati along with three other IMS call centers in Wheeling, West Virginia; Duluth, Minnesota; and Pittsburg, Kansas.

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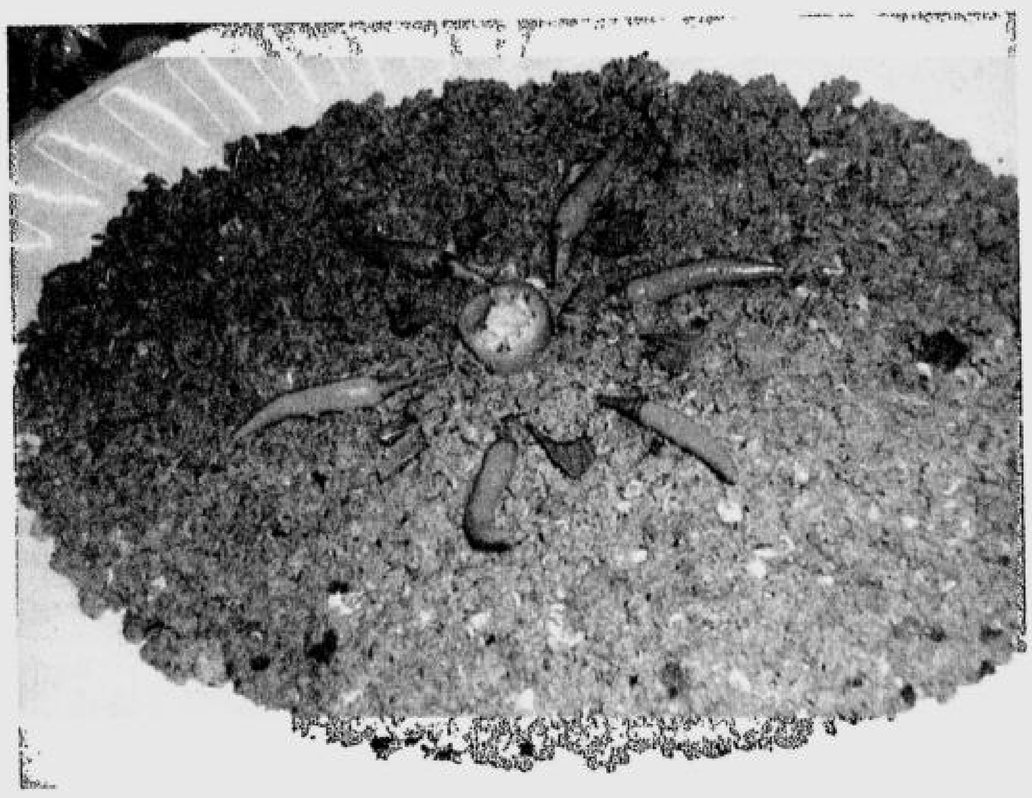
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

The first winning recipe in the PDI Family Recipe Contest is from Raquel P. Abuel of Lucban, Quezon. Ms Abuel, who is 65 years old and uses an old-fashion portable *kudkuran* (grater), wins P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks



SANTOL Con Gata

1st winning recipe stars tropical fruit

By Raquel P. Abuel

THIS recipe, famous in the province of Quezon, has been in my family for three generations. My grandmother passed it on to my mother, who in turn passed it on to me.

I remember watching my mother make this dish when I was 13 years old. My grandmother said this recipe first came about as a way of using preserved santol among the farmers of her younger days.

When the fruit is in season, I preserve it in salt. Then whenever I feel like eating santol, I can just wash off the salt and make Santol Con Gata. I usually make this dish for potlucks and on special occasions.

Ginataang Santol may be served as an appetizer, or it may also be used as a dip or a sauce.

Santol Con Gata

Ingredients:

15 pcs ripe santol fruits, grated
3-4 bulbs native garlic, ground
5 pcs *galunggong* fish (previously well-boiled in water and salt or *sinaing*)
3 pcs matured coconut or *niyog*, grated
2 pcs *siling labuyo*, mashed
½ tsp rock salt
½ cube Knorr Chicken cubes

Note: You will need a *kudkuran*. I've tried using a food processor but the result is not the same. Instead of 3 pcs of *niyog*, you may substitute 2 plastic bags of coconut milk.

Preparation:

1. Cut unpeeled *santol* fruits in half and remove seeds. Grate *santol* flesh using *kudkuran*.
2. Boil *santol* flesh in water for two minutes to remove salty taste. Squeeze out water.
3. Flake the 5 pcs *sinaing na galunggong*. Set aside.
4. Extract the *kakang gata* (first extraction) by mixing 1 cup of water with the grated coconuts or *niyog* . Squeeze the *kakang gata*. Set aside.
5. Using the same grated mature coconut, mix in 4 cups water and do a second extraction of coconut milk.

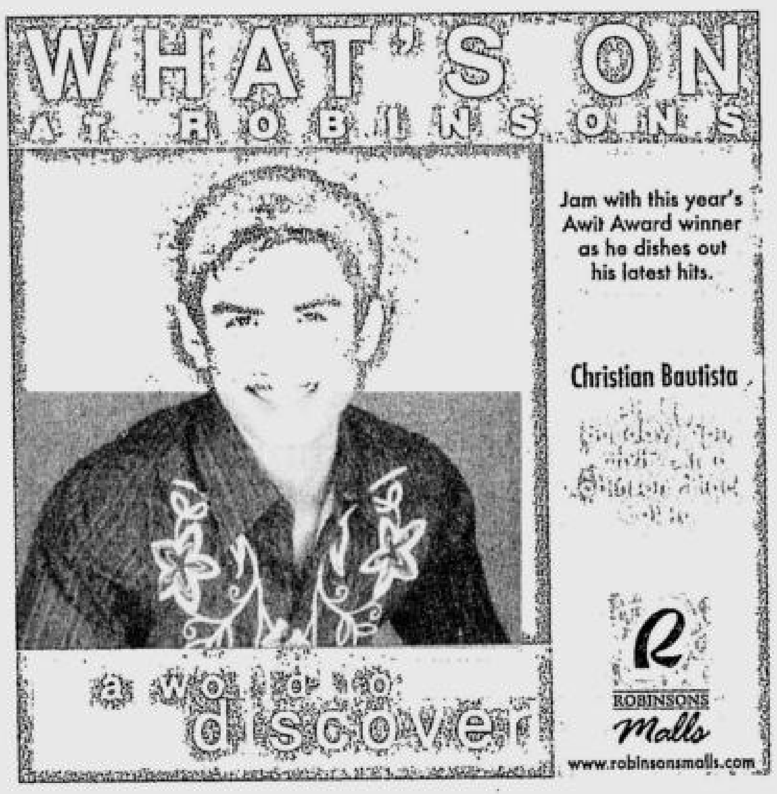
Cooking procedure:

1. Mix second extraction of coconut milk, flaked *galunggong*, garlic, ½ cube of Knorr Chicken Cubes, *siling labuyo* and salt in pan over low heat. Mix occasionally to prevent lumps at the bottom of the pan.
2. When mixture starts to simmer, mix in grated *santol* flesh. Stir occasionally to prevent lumps.
3. Stir continuously when coconut milk begins to evaporate.
4. When liquid has evaporated, mix in the *kakang gata* or first extraction. Mix until oil comes out.
5. Santol Con Gata may be stored up to six months.

Send us your family recipes

WIN P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. Send us your favorite family recipe, along with a photo and a brief essay telling us (1) who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; (2) how many generations have cooked it; (3) when it is usually cooked and served; and (4) why it is special to the family. Include your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or hand-delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph.** Photo attachment to e-mailed entries must be in jpeg format. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.



WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Jam with this year's Awit Award winner as he dishes out his latest hits.

Christian Bautista

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Cell phone users cry out for help

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

EVERY time I write about the many woes of cellular phone users, my mailbox gets an overload of feedback from subscribers who want to share their own experiences. This week, cell phone gripes are tops in my list, followed by complaints about taxi hustlers.

Here are some of the letters

Mike G. of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is crying out for help on how to block offensive texts from an anonymous sender. "Where can a victim report obnoxious text messages? I've been advised to just simply ignore the message, or delete it right away so as not to get (emotionally) affected. But I think that it's high time the authorities come up with an intervention technology to put a stop to this irresponsible use of communication."

Overseas worker Maria Y. wrote from Singapore, "My father informed me that my (cell phone) bill had reached P22,805.41, and I had to pay it by July 20. How could this be? There wasn't even a warning that I had reached my credit limit. Before I left for abroad, I made arrangements with the phone company to charge my bills to my credit card."

Maria added that when she called the phone company's customer service in the Philippines, she was informed that there had been a change in the billing system. "I just started working here, hoping to earn enough money to pay our debts there and save some for the future. Now I end up paying this bill, simply because the cellular phone company changed its billing system."

From Jess F. of Tabaco City, Albay: "Why does this number, 2346, which supposedly sends ring tones, screen savers upon request, continue to send me offers even if I don't ask for it? I send them SMS so they will stop, but they still send me the same messages even in the most ungodly hours as when I am asleep. Please help!"

Here's a letter which blames foot-dragging telecommunications authorities for the seemingly endless text scams. Letter sender Victoria P. shares a telling experience: "My friend complained to her cellular phone service provider about unwanted texts she received between July 10 and 20. How the senders got her phone number is a mystery. She was advised to report all the unwanted text messages to the National Telecommunication Commission. But when she called NTC, she couldn't get any responsible representative to receive her complaint."

She gave examples of these texts. We purposely omitted the cell phone numbers but the texts appear exactly as they were received:

-"CONGRATS! Ur one of the lucky winner of 500 peso load. To clam ur load, just type (cellphone number omitted) then send to 808. Enjoy ur load!"

- "(S.M.S) Electronic reloading has congratulate your winning load for the day pls call ang claime your charity prize now! Ms Chrisy Alonzo D.T.I.#101 Series 2005."

- "Congrats! You won a 500 load from SMART. TYPE (cellphone number omitted) and send to 808 you claim the 500 load now thank you...!"

Highway robbery

A *balikbayan* writes about her experience with taxi hustlers at the airport: "Although I knew it would only cost P200 in a metered taxi, I settled for an AUV that charged me P450 to my destination. Along the way, the chatty driver remarked that I must have earned lots of dollars abroad. When we finally arrived at my place, he mumbled, 'Ma'am, *paano naman yung* tip *ko*?'

"When I gave him P50, he looked at me derisively and said, '*Grabe naman, ang kuripot*.' Then he slammed the door of his van. Too bad I wasn't able to get the plate number, although I kept the receipt the barker issued to me.

"These taxi hustlers should not be allowed to operate at the airport. They give a very bad impression of Filipinos!"

E-mail the author at mvgiron07@yahoo.com

STIRRED and not shaken are TGIF bartenders Arnold "Fireman" Santos, Ruel "Twister" Cuadra, Ed "Shadow" Yonzon, G-Boy "Slush" Peralta and Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza who have qualified for the final tilt.

Tending bar turns competitive Aug. 4

THE "SHAKE, Rattle and Pour" 2005 Bartender Championship will be held 3 p.m. on Aug. 4 at T.G.I.Friday's, Alabang Town Center.

Vying for this year's title are Jesus "Slush" Peralta (Sta. Lucia), Arnold "Fireman" Santos (Malate), Ed "Shadow" Yonzon (Quezon City), Ruel "Twister" Cuadra (Alabang) and defending champion Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza (Glorietta).

The annual competition not only involves showmanship but also the technical aspect of bartending, quizzes on menu items, current events and comprehensive skill test.

The winner in this year's competition will represent the country in the regional tilt to be held in Taiwan in October. The regional winner will then compete in the World Bartender Championship in Las Vegas, USA.

Training tilt for bartenders

THE ANNUAL Chili's Star Bar Challenge, a training competition for the chain's best bartenders, will also be held Aug. 4. Proceeds from the event will go to Gawad Kalinga.

The Star Bar Challenge is co-sponsored by Super Bowl, Nestea Iced Tea, Nestlé Ice Cream and Magic 89.9.

The Gawad Kalinga Foundation, beneficiary of the event, is a non-profit nongovernment organization that aims to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years. Call Chili's at 7272959 (Missouri, Northeast Greenhills), 8120225/8672727 (Greenbelt 1) or 3725017 (Tomas Morato, QC).

Best sweet recipes will scoop prizes

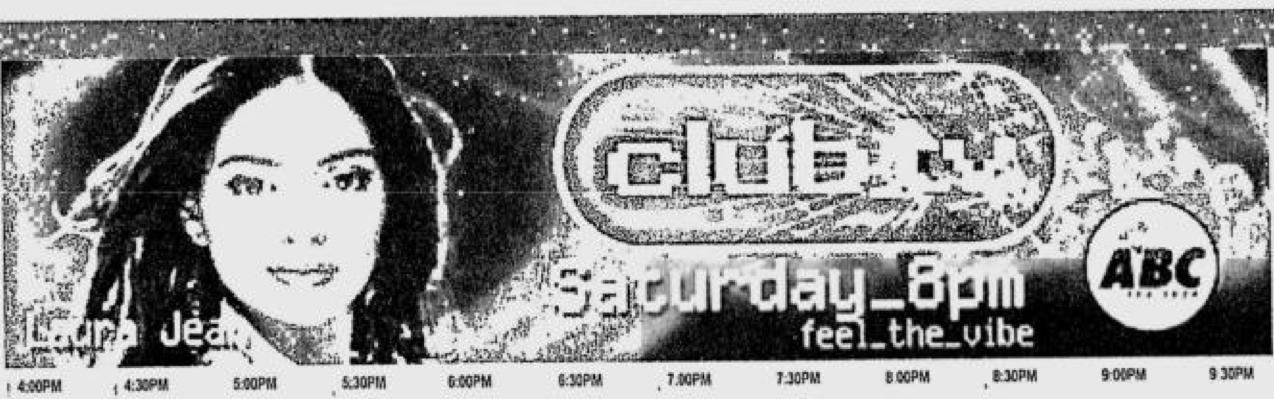
THE SEMI-FINAL round of the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition will be held July 29. The three finalists will move on to the last round of competition during the World Food Expo (Wofex) at the World Trade Center Manila on Aug. 6.

Conceived in 2003, the contest aims to bring out the creativity and resourcefulness of students from the best hotel and restaurant management (HRM) colleges in coming up with original and one-of-a-kind recipes using Nestlé Ice Cream.

The annual Scoopetition is a highly anticipated event by consumers for the new flavors to be tasted, and by judges as well for the new talents to be discovered. It has evolved as the battle of the best in the culinary dessert world. As such, Nestlé Ice Cream introduces this year the Golden Scoop, a special recognition in the competition that represents the quality and standards of goodness inherent in Nestlé Ice Cream that befits the winning recipe.

The Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition grand prize winner stands to win P15,000 while the adviser will receive P7,500. Other runners-up and their advisers will also receive cash prizes, while nonwinners will receive consolation prizes.

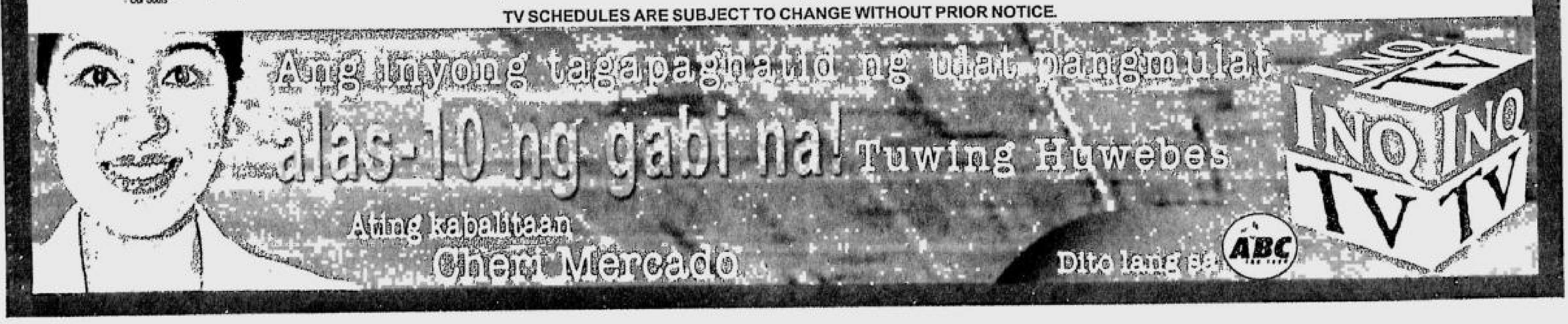
INQUIRER TV GUIDE

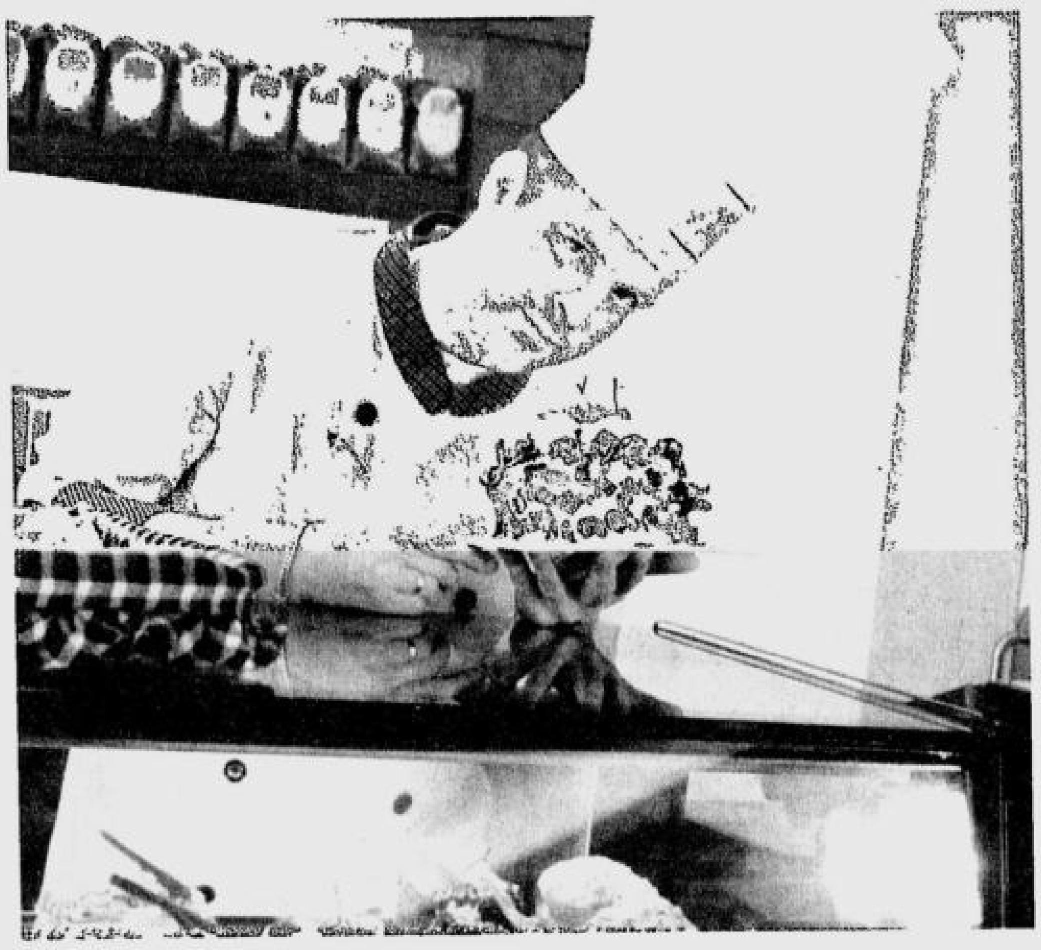


ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championship (Day 3 Session 2)				Sentro	American Idol		Live 8			Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf Canadian Women's Open	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Dateline Specials		The Grid		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Japan 9 Ball Finals		TM Phil 9-Ball			IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams	Dismissed # 618	MTV Get Spotted		Boiling Points # 204	Hangin Out at MTV		TRL		MTV Play		MTV Dives		Pimp My Ride # 205	Cribs # 1111	MTV Lokal Mishka Adams	Brand New	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Figure Skating		LPGA Golf				2005 WPBA Cuetec Cues Southeast Classic		Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball						Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports					IBF Malaysian Open '05								Sports Desk					Rocky Mountain Revue	
Sports Plus					Celebrity Poker				Raceworld		The Search TV	French Open Highlights				NASCAR Pennsylvania 500 Pocono			
Cinemax	Tarzan The Magnificent			Cops And Robbersons			Prehysteria! 2			Unforgiven				Breaking The Silence			True Crime (10.35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Strong Medicine		HCA The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Strong Medicine		The Peacekeeper Wars			Judging Amy (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time V The Mysterious Island			So Little Time	Sabrina The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Man Of The House	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		In The Wake Of The Junks		Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Evolve	One Step Beyond	Extreme Engineering		The Ultimate Guide		Deadly Women		Power Zone	
National Geographic				Marine Machine		The Last Flight Of Bomber 31		Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge	Wow! The Greatest Shoot On earth		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machine	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Invasion Iowa	Growing Up Gotti	Rock Star	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	Invasion Iowa
AXN		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: NY (Season I)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Worst Case Scenario		Lost		Past Midnight			
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Vengeance				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip-Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO				The Black Marble			2 Fast 2 Furious (5.45 PM)				The Wild Thornberrys Movie (7.35 PM)			The Net				The Missing (10.50PM)	
Star Movies				Blind Horizon			Bottle Rocket (5.40 PM)			The Sin Eater (7.15 PM)				Phenomenon				Sister Act (11.10PM)	
Cinema One		Si Romeo At Si Juliet				Ang Tanging Ina				Pahiram Kahit Sandali				Anak Ng Dilim				Mahal Kita Walang Iwanan	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call in Your Life	The Journey Home	

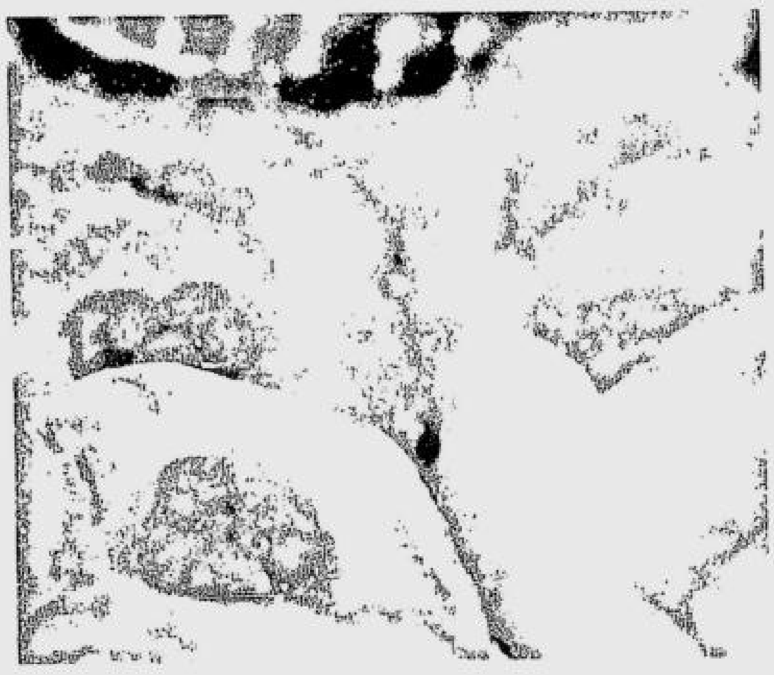
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV
INQ TV
INQ TV

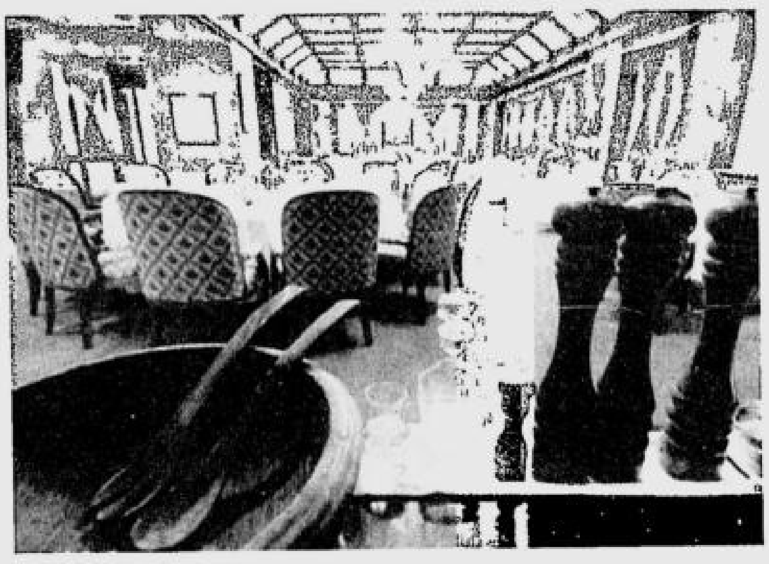


EXECUTIVE chef Nicholas Anderson of Geneva, Switzerland

SALMON teriyaki from Boulvar



FRUIT Danish from Patisserie



BIG families and groups get the best deals at The Rotisserie Restaurant.

CLASS REUNION
WESTMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL BATCH '76 – '77 will be holding their first class reunion on **August 20, 2005**. Schoolmates and teachers are also invited. For more details please call **EDU** at **(02) 242-45-91** or **0917-8255136**.

Pavilion of gustatory pleasures and more

THE MANILA Pavilion Hotel's first incarnation was at the Manila Hilton International, back in the late '70s when the building was the tallest one in Manila.

Its guest list for its inauguration included the founder and owner of the Hilton chain of hotels, Conrad Hilton. The first five-star hotel in the country and the most modern hotel in Asia, it served as the temporary home of international and local celebrities, among them world boxing champion Muhammad Ali, the singers Jackson 5 and Matt Monro, and Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz.

The hotel has undergone a lot of changes since its heydays. It became Manila Pavilion Hotel the first time in 1988 when Casino Filipino made its home in the hotel's second floor. Soon after, it became Holiday Inn. But in 2003, its name got changed back to Manila Pavilion, and along with the return of the name, improvements in the hotel were made.

Double treat

The hotel opened two new restaurants that are totally different from each other to give guests the added pleasure of enjoying varied dining experiences.

Boulvar, at the lobby, has modern, chic and sophisticated interiors that complement the hotel's classic, formal design. More than just a place to pass time in, it offers a broad range of food, from *pica-pica* and entrées to desserts. A sleek bar offers a wide array of drinks concocted by a talented team of bartenders. Boulvar offers remarkable entertainment and stylish ambiance daily from 10 a.m.-2 a.m.

The Patisserie was turned from a pastry stand into a full-fledged pastry shop at the leftmost corner of the hotel, facing Maria Orosa Street. Upon entrance, guests are immediately welcomed with an authentic French ambiance, with walls that are decorated with French murals.

The Patisserie gives its visitors the casual French-European café experience right in the middle of the city, with sinfully delicious tarts and cakes as well as scrumptious pastas, salads, sandwiches and an assortment of freshly baked breads.

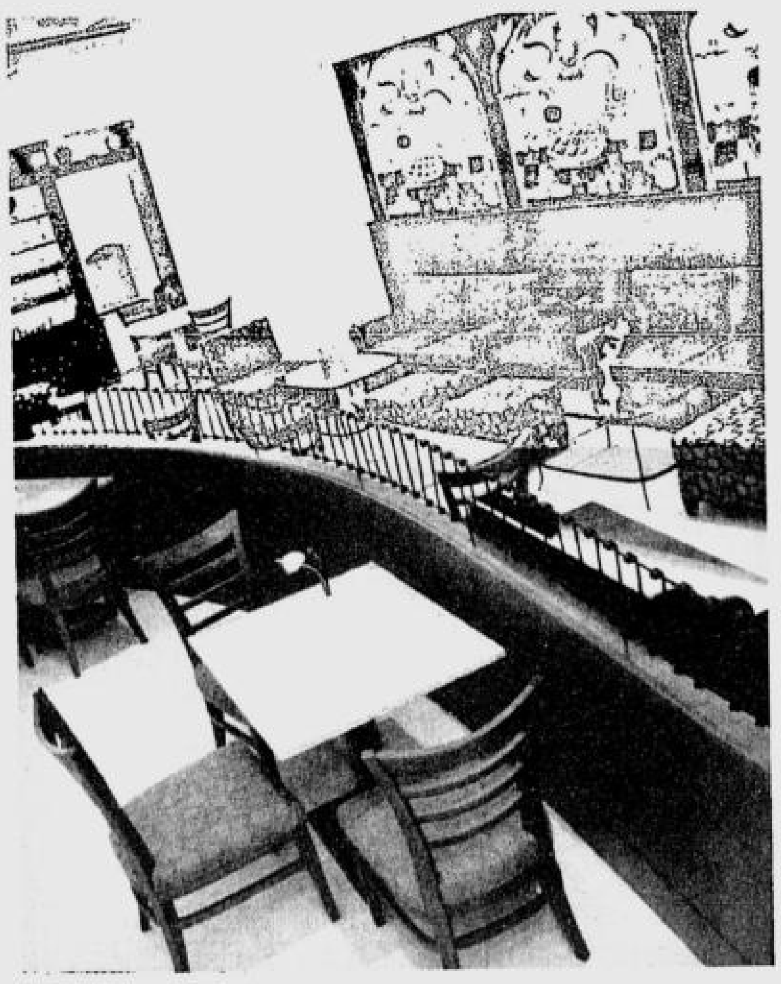
Daintily furnished and designed with a certain flair that exudes a comfortable French continental atmosphere, the Patisserie is open from 6 a.m.-12 midnight.

Old splendor

Redesigning Manila Pavilion's guest rooms involved great planning and conceptualization, as the mission was to preserve the hotel's original architecture and retain its old splendor while adding a modern contemporary look.

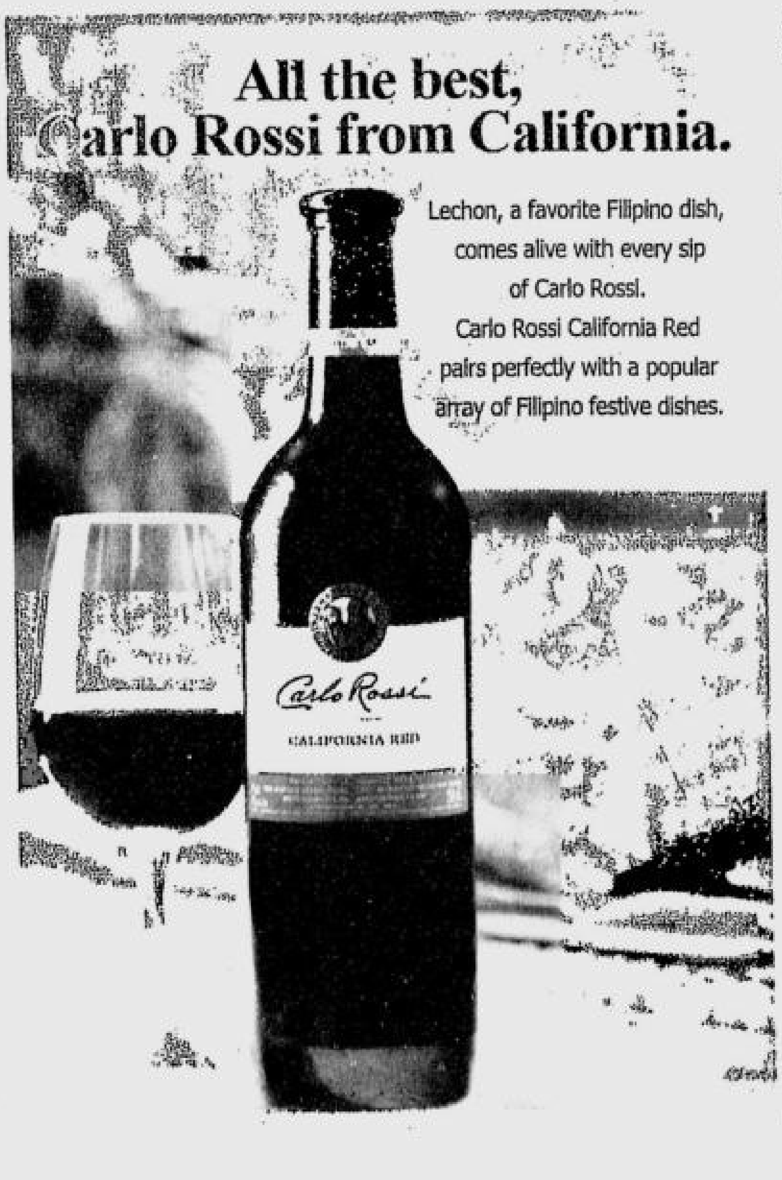
The rooms and hallways now have brighter lighting, wooden walls and fixtures having been varnished to a lighter shade. The color scheme was also changed to earth tones, and the carpets and furniture are now in soothing shades of beige.

Manila Pavilion Hotel is at the heart of the main tourist and entertainment district, along United Nations Ave. cor. Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila. Call 5261212.



INDULGE your sweet tooth at Patisserie.

₱8.50 PA RIN
ANG PINALAKAS NA TUSERAN
TUSERAN FORTE
DEXTROMETHORPHAN
PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE
PARACETAMOL
If symptoms



All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.

A Lifestyle Full of Hearty Delights.
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1st Ilocandia fest features talks on food trends, cooking demos

COMPETITIONS in cooking, bartending and table decorations, which will be opened to both professionals and amateurs, will highlight the First Ilocandia Festival to be held July 29-31 in the province of of La Union, gateway to Ilocandia.

Organized by Specialized Trade and Marketing Inc. (Stram Events) in cooperation with the La Union Hotel, Resorts and Restaurants Association Inc. (LUHHRA), the event will also feature cooking and baking demonstration by chefs from the San Miguel Culinary Center, Unilever and ISCHM.

Expected to participate are member establishments of LUHHRA as well as students of the food industry from colleges and universities from Region I.

Two days will be devoted to conferences covering the following topics: "Global Food Trends," with resource speaker Helene Pontejos, culinary directress of San Miguel Culinary Center; "Biyahe Na! Marketing!", with Adolf Aran, marketing manager of GFS San Miguel Corporation; "Asian Cuisine with Regional Flavors," with Chef Gene Gonzales, president, Center for Asian Culinary Studies/Café Isabel; "Food Handling and Sanitation Practices" and "Food and Beverage Management and Cost Control," with Hans Schallenberg, director of ISCHM.

LUHHRA is expecting an attendance of some 1,500 students and instructors from colleges and universities in Region I and various local agencies. Tickets will also be made available to the general public.

Venue for the festival is at St. Louis College at Lingat, San Fernando, La Union.

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. This 26 – day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurants. Classes begins on September 2 and ends November 26, 2005. Classes are held every Fridays & Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Lirio & Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August 1 (Monday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.(classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison* Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

August 1 (Monday) 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison* Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. P1,500

August 1 (Monday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)COMMERCIAL BREAD BAKING I WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kumps New York Cooking School* Spanish Bread, Pandesal, Hotdog Bun, Pan de Coco, Choco Bread Hamburger Bun, Meat Roll & Pig Pie plus bonus recipes! P2,500

August 2 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1 (Most Requested!) by: Heny Sison* Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. P1,500

August 2 (Tuesday) 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School* Discover ways to transform meat, poultry & seafood into profitable menu items. SAUSAGES: Chorizo Bilbao, Longanisa Ilongga, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage & Mexican Sausage; CONDIMENTS: Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles Chips & Atchara: MARINADE: Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino; DISHES: Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole & Country Style Pork & Beans. P2,500

August 3 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom) COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy* If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! P3,000

August 4 (Thursday) 10: 00 a.m. 0 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)BURGERS & STEAKS by: Chef Jane Paredes, Burgers: Italian Burger, Tex Mex Burger, Chicken Burger, Crab Cake Burger & Traditional Beef Burger * Steaks: Rib-eye, Tenderloin & T-Bone * Sauces: Bercy, Green Peppercorn Sauce & Café de Paris *Sidings: Potato Gratin & Potato Puree. P2,500

August 5 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) EASY BAKING FOR BEGINNERS by: Chef Jill Sandique* Butter Cupcakes, Custard Chiffon Cake, Blueberry Cheesecake, Queen Elizabeth Cake, Chocolate Beehives and Mango Walnut Torte. P1,500

August 5 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants * Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. P2,500

August 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY NUTRITION by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) * This class will guide the principles of healthy nutrition & the nutritional guideline, menu plan & recipes of Phase 1 of the South Beach Diet Swiss Pinoy Style - the strictest phase of the diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

August 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.(classroom A) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer* Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

August 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy* In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, setting up a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

August 9 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY NUTRITION by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje This class will guide you the principles of healthy nutrition & the nutritional guideline, menu plan & recipes of Phase 1 of the South Beach Diet Swiss Pinoy Style - the strictest phase of the diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

August 9 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) DIMSUM I by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine.* Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi. P1,700

August 10 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (classroom A) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo, Recipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus recipe Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice). P1,700

August 10 (Wednesday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) JAPANESE COOKING II by: Chef Koichi Kondo, *Clam Soup, Miso Soup w/ Pork and Vegetables, Soup w/ Rice Cakes, Beef Salad, As-You-Like-It Pancake and Rolled Omelette. P1,700

August 11 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.(classroom A) KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila* Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. P2,500

August 12 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes*Recipes: Sugar, Honey – Glazed, Caramel Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar, Dulce de Leche, Cream Cheese Honey, Boston Cream, Sour Cream Cake Doughnut & Creamy Glazed. P 2,500

August 12 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) PAELLA Y MAS (Paellas & More!) by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of RASTRO Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Rockwell and Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club* Recipes: Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella ala Montana, Paella Catalan (sin Tropezone), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

August 13 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES PART V: Pampanga Kakanin by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants* Calamay Ube, Calamay Mais, Kamoteng Kahoy Rolls, Suman Balagtas, Halayang Ube & Matamis na Saging with Creamy Pandan Sauce. P1,500

August 13 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison* Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. P3,000

August 15 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES By: Glenn Remorca* Make fresh floral arrangement for birthdays, baptismal, anniversaries in different styles and materials. Sourcing of materials included. Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair scissors. P3,000

August 15 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) CHINESE VEGETARIAN MEALS by: Chef Katherine Sion*A collection of simple vegetarian dishes that can be served in parties or in your home. The course will also teach you the techniques in cooking vegetables using different flavors you can choose from.* Fried Beancurd, Lo Honchay, Sauteed Vege w/ Mixed Vegetables, Steamed Beancurd Roll, Beansprout w/ Kutchay Flower, Braised Beancurd w/ Vege Duck Meat & Assorted Mushrooms, Snow Fungus w/ Fruit Cocktail, Sauteed Baguio Beans w/ Spicy Sauce. P1,800

August 16 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 (classroom A) EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS by: Chef Jill Sandique * Chocolate Pecan Coffee Cake, Orange-Glazed Bundt Cakes, Latticed-Topped Apple Pie with Cider Sauce, Chocolate Caramel Tart, Christmas Cookies and Chocolate Chip Banana Loaf. P1,500

August 16 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.(classroom B) (ORGANIC SOUTH BEACH DIET) SWISS PINOY STYLE PHASE 2 & 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje * South Beach Diet Phase 2 continues the discussion on the diet & healthy nutrition with recipes of Stage II. Participants will share their experience from stage I. South Beach Diet Phase 3 is the introduction to the most liberal stage of the diet. Complete meal plan & discussion on how to create your own recipes by including your favorite dishes in your diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P3,500

August 17 (Wednesday) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) THAI SPECIALTIES: A WORKSHOP PART I FROM THE MARKET TO THE DINING TABLE by: Chef Dino Guingona, graduate of California Culinary Academy and at the Thai Cooking School in Chiangmai* The class starts with a visit to the Farmers market in Cubao Q.C. led by Chef Dino Guingona, students will learn the proper selection and buying of ingredients. The rest of the morning will be spent on the preparation, afterwhich each participants gets to whip up Thai specialties such as: Tum Yam Koong, Khao Pad Koong (Shrimp Fried Rice), Nam Phrik Kaeng (Green Curry Paste), Kaeng Khao Wan Kai (Green Chicken Curry), Mee-Krop (Crispy Fried Noodles), Hor Moak (Steamed Curry). P2,800

August 18 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! HANDAANG PINOY FAVORITES PART II by: Chef Carol Acosta* Igado, Batangas Beef Estofado, Ginataang Santol of Quezon, Morcon Kapampangan, Buko-Laing Pouches and Lumpia Ubod with Cheddar Sauce. P2,500

August 19 – 20 (Friday – Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison* Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation. P4,000

August 19 (Friday) 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! CHEF ED'S MAGIC BOX by: Chef Ed Quimson * Are you up for a culinary challenge ala Iron Chef? Learn how to create a variety of dishes with seasoned Chef Ed Quimson's "magic box" of finest & freshest ingredients from the market. We will meet at the school then will proceed to Farmer's Market Friday morning, buy the best, take it back to the school and prepare gutsy & flavorful dishes together. The best of cooking happens in this class with: lively conversations, humor and a lot of cooking insights. Maximum of 8 students only. P5,000

August 20 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.(classroom B) NEW CLASS! THE BEST OF THE BEST: SERIES I by: Chef Vicky Villanueva, from Stars & Bizu. Let Chef Vicky share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisserie and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations. *Learn the chef's secret, more tips and proven techniques. Recipes: Apple Pie, Baked Cheesecake with Strawberry and Blueberry Toppings, Mango Meringue Torte, Crème Brulee, French Butter Cake, Classic Rum Cake, Chocolate Sponge, Chocolate Mousse Cakes 3 ways and Glossy Chocolate Glaze. P2,500

August 22 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 3 by: Chef Katherine Sion* West Lake Soup, Boneless Barbecue Chicken Chinese Style, Sliced Beef with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Fried Shrimp with Spicy Sauce, Crispy Bihon with Assorted Meats, Fried Rice with Salted Fish and Fried Wanton with Apple Filling. P1,700

August 22 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) TAPAS I by: Chef Ed Quimson* Croquetas Chicken, Croquetas Paella Negra, Gambas, Samosa Tinapa, Pimientos Alinadas, Balido Salmon, Potato Anchovy, Croquetas & Fabada . P2,500

August 23 (Tuesday) 9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom A) CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. P1,500

August 23 (Tuesday) 1:00-4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison * Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies. P1,500

August 23 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) ARTISANAL BREAD by: Jacqueline Alleje* Nothing equals the satisfaction of home baked breads. In this class you will learn how to bake savory and sweet quick breads. This class is a must for all who wants to complete their skill of healthy cooking. This class will teach you how to prepare the most delicious healthy breads. And, if you want to turn it into a small business, we teach you how to. Recipes: Whole Wheat Sandwich Bread, Yogurt Graham, Herb-Onion-Bacon Bread, Yogurt Graham Bread, Bread Sticks, Focaccia, Whole Wheat Swiss Quark Scones, Raisin Bread and Mango Tea Bread. P2,500

August 24 (Wednesday) 10:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! ROASTING CLASS by: Chef Ed Quimson* Learn from this hands-on class the treasured family recipes of Chef Ed: Roast Beef, Crown Roast of Pork, Roast Iberian Chicken, Roast Leg of Lamb w/Apricot Glaze, Roast Duckling of Black Cherry & Brandy Sauce, Roast Turkey with Corn Bread, Chorizo & Chestnut Filling. Demonstration with student participation. P4,800

August 25 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) SAUSAGE II: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes. *Breakfast Meatloaf, Chicken Honey Sausage, Breakfast Sausage, Chicken Teriyaki (Marinade), Garlic Sausage, Frankfurters, Burong Mangga (Pickled item), Corned Beef, Vienna Sausage. P2,500

August 26 (Friday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) TALKING BREADS: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique* Chung Sik Bao (Chinese Buns), Meat Floss Buns, Pineapple Skin Bread, Mexican Bread, Green Tea Twist, Red Bean Twist, Peanut Twist, Jam Rolls, Pineapple Braid, Coconut Buns, Custard & Chocolate Chips, Fruit & Custard, Meat Floss & Ham Sandwich, Mixed Vegetable Braid, Bacon Bun, Spring Onion Roll, Sweet Corn & Ham, Pizza Bread, Ham & Egg and Spinach and White Sauce Bun. P2,500

August 26 (Friday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. (classroom B) SIMPLE GOURMET by: Chef Dino Guingona *Seared Scallops with Wild Mushrooms, Mesclun Salad with Kesong Puti in Anchovy Vinaigrette, Chilean Seabass in Miso-Mirin Marinade, Grilled Rib-eye w/ Fresh Foie Gras in Truffle Essence. P2,700

August 27 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NO-BAKED CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison * Festive Irish Cream, Rocky Road, Very Blueberry, Creamy Chilled, Very smooth, Tropical & Mango Cheesecake. P1,500

August 27 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) NEW CLASS! THE BEST OF THE BEST: SERIES II By: Chef Vicky Villanueva* Learn the Chef's secret. More tips and proven techniques Recipes: Softest Ensaymada, Savory Toppings, Adobo Flakes, Meat Floss, Sweet Toppings, Classic, Chocolate, Praline and Ube. Queso de Bola Cheese Rolls, Crisp Crusted Light Waffles, Fool Proof Cinnamon Rolls, Coffee, Chocolate and Caramel Eclairs, Cream Puff and Bunuelos P2,500

August 29 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES PART VI by: Chef Carol Acosta * Flaky Empanada with Traditional Filling, Inpit Especial with Ube Filling, Espasol with Pinipig & Buko, Bread Pudding Especial, Leche Flan and Ensaimaditas com Leche Gatas. P1,500

August 29 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (classroom B) FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli * Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna ai 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini ai 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine ai Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

August 30 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)COFFEEHOUSE FAVORITES by: Chef Jane Paredes, * Ice Blended Drinks: Iced Café Mocha Java, Green Tea Chill, Vanilla Chill, Mocha Frappe; Pastries: Rum-Raisin Pistachio Bar, Dulce de Leche Ensaymada with Almonds, Lemon-Vodka Rum Cake, Chocolate Fudge Cookie, Prune & Walnut Coffee Cake and Crullers with Rum Glaze. P2,500

August 30 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) HAM MAKING WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison * Each student will learn how to make Honey-Cured Ham, Sugar Glazing, and bonus recipe. Full participation.P 4,000

August 31 (Wednesday) 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! PICA AT PULUTAN by: Chef Dino Guingona, graduate of California Culinary Academy and at the Thai Cooking School in Chiangmai *Crispy Pata in Garlic Cream Sauce, Kilawing Tanigue, Sizzling Sisig at Kalderetang Kambing w/ Pita. P1,700

August 31 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! OYSTER, MUSSELS and SHRIMP CLASS by: Chef Jane Paredes* Oyster Rockefeller, two-cheese, mushroom & bacon, pate & onion, Champagne Sabayon, Herb & Garlic, Bacon & Cheese, Pimiento & Caper, Wild Mushroom, Tomato-Pesto, Shrimp Cocktail, Shrimp & Fruit Salad, Shrimp with Mango & Papaya Salad, Crispy Soft Shell Crab with Mesclun Salad & Lime-Cilantro Dressing. P2,500

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
#31 Nestle Bldg. Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City

August 22 (Monday)10:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES * French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Crème Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake. P1,700

August 29 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS * Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing P1,500

TUITION FEE includes ingredients. Reservation is required.
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Magnolia Cream Cheese
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Magnolia DAIRY ICE CREAM
PUREFOODS HORMEL
POWDERED SUGAR
Julius Maggi Kitchen

Sweet treat from the Brits!

IN CELEBRATION of its centenary, British chocolate maker Cadbury is giving a sweet treat with its Cadbury's "Buy 1 Take 1," which is ongoing while supplies last at participating supermarkets and department stores. Cadbury is also making available certain variants at a special discounted price.

Learn the rudiments of cooking

MAYA Kitchen offers three hands-on classes on basic cooking. Whether you are a beginner or more experienced cook, these classes will give you the opportunity to develop classic cooking skills that will help you understand recipes and allow you to improvise.

Explore your culinary talents on "Basic Cooking," Aug. 2-5/16-19, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. More topics included: Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; proper mise en place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free "Mix & Match" cookbook.

Creative decorative skilled can now be mastered in "Basic Cake Decorating," Aug. 6 and 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Orientation begins on fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching techniques.

Individual workshop on icing application and cake designing is also included.

Finally, share an oven with Maya's team of bakers in "Basic Baking," Aug. 9-12 or 23-26, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and learn the standard baking techniques applicable to the preparation of different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes, with free cookbook.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesday to Saturday) at 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185/8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultilmate.info.com.ph

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 cooking schools in Hongkong

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

LEARN AND EARN! PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, Chicago, U.S.A. - Only one in the Philippines
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

JULY 29 2:30 - 6:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS W/ HOISIN SAUCE. MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICK IN HONEY SAUCE, SATE A JAM CHICKEN SKEWERS IN PEANUT SAUCE, BEEF RIBS WITH PEKING NOODLES, DELICIOUS PORK SPARERIBS, NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBECUE, NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN FRIED RICE) FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA CHICKEN HONEY, THE BEST PORK BARBECUE SAUCE **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

HOME BUSINESS

JULY 31 SUN 2:00 - 6:00PM MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE 5. ITALIAN SALAMI, PEPPERONI; LIVERWURST (GERMAN LIVER SAUSAGE), THAI HOT SAUSAGE, ILOCOS LONGANISA, BONUS: FRENCH GARLIC SAUSAGE **BY LENI R. ARAULLO (INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD). P1,200.**

BAKESHOPS

AUG. 1 MON 2:30 - 6:30PM BAGUIO'S FAMOUS RAISIN BREAD, AMERICAN TASTY, HONEY BREAD, BUTTER BREAD, BRAIDED CHEESE BREAD, MORELLA & ERNEST BIG PANDESAL, SUPERSOFT "CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN DELICIOUS BREAD MADE EASY! **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FASTFOOD

AUG. 2 TUE 2:30 -6:00PM - PUT UP A STEAKHOUSE - LEARN THE TECHNIQUES TO COOKING THE JUICEIEST MONTEREY PORTERHOUSE STEAKS, BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAK ALA POBRE, DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY, CAESAR SALAD, ROAST ORANGE PORKLOIN, BEST-SELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI W/ 2 SAUCES, MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI. **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

CATERERS

AUG. 4 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM - 7 FINGER PARTY FOOD WITH COCKTAIL PUNCH - QUICHE LORRAINE (CHEESE CUSTARD SQUARES); CENTURY TUNA IN EGG POUCHES (HOMEMADE CREPES), DEBONED AND STUFFED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WINGS, CRUNCHY WITH NUTS FRIED CHICKEN LOLLIPOPS WITH TARTTARE SAUCE; CRISPY STUFFED SHRIMPS, MAGNOLIA CHICKEN POPSICLES WITH BROWN MUSHROOM GRAVY; NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS LORRIE REYNOSO PUNCH. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA & ERNEST**

AUG. 5 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES II - LEARN 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! SHABU-SHABU WITH 2 SAUCES, ASSORTED CRISPY TEMPURA; GRILLED PORK AND BEEF SLICE; UDON9VERY SPECIAL NOODLES) FRIED TOFUS IN SPECIAL NOODLES)FRIED TOFUS IN SPECIAL SAUCE; BREADED CHICKEN WINGS WITH VINEGAR SAUCE; JAPANESE MIXED FRIED RICE PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF COMPLETE SUSHI BAR. **P1,200 BY SYLVIA**

HOME BUSINESS

AUG 7 SUN OR AUG 25 THU 2:00 - 5:30PM - LEARN TO BAKE & DECORATE WILTON ALL OCASSION COOKIES! P600 - INCLUDING INGREDIENTS, SANDWICH COURTESY OF THE FRENCHBAKER. PLS BRING 3 PIPING BAGS WITH COUPLERS, 1 STAR & 1 ROUND TIP. 30 SEATS AVAILABLE ON A 1ST COME, 1ST SERVED BASIS. (DECOR MATERIALS FOR SALE AT CULINARY STUDIO) PLS. BRING 1 BIG BOX 12" X 16" **BY LENI ARAULLO**

AUG. 8 MON 2:30 - 6:15PM LIGHT AND AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE ROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL WITH FILLING CINNAMON ROLLS, BREADED-BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,200 BY SYLVIA.**

AUG. 9 TUES 2:30 - 6:00PM - 2 KINDS OF ROAST BEEF - MONTEREY STANDING RIB-ROAST AND BACON WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST WITH GRAVY, CREMA DE FRUTA, SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE; FRIED SQUID RINGS, CHICKEN ALEXANDER, SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER **P1,200 BY ERNEST**

RESTAURANTS

AUG 11 THU 2:30 - 5:30PM FISH 'N CHIPS W/ MAYO MUSTARD DILL SAUCE SPICY BARBECUED MONTEREY BABY BACK RIBS W/ CHILI SAUCE; EASY CAESAR SALAD TOPPED W/ GRILLED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BREASTS; DELICIOUS CAMPBELL'S CHICKEN CASSEROLE W/ BABY POTATOES & CARROTS ERNEST'S FRESH ASPARAGUS W CREAMY TOPPING, PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE IN RAMIKENS TOPPED W/ RICOA CHOCOLATE BAR **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

CATERERS

AUG. 12 FRI 2:30 - 6:00 PM - POLLO IBERICO (SOFT TO THE BONE SPANISH GARLIC ROASTED CHICKEN W. BABY POTATOES) MELTINGLY DELICIOUS SHRIMP SALAD, DE LUXE MEATLOAF, BONELESS PARTY FISH SALAD, HOW TO BAKE THE LIGHTEST PEACH CHIFFON CAKE W/ WHIPPING CREAM **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

AUG. 13, 20, 27 SEP. 3 SAT 9:00AM - 5:00PM (4 LESSONS) MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P4,500 INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACK & INGREDIENTS EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRINGING YOUR OWN.

LESSON 1 - FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING TECHNIQUES IN COLORING BORDERS, SHELL ROPE, STAR LEAF, ZIGZAG "E" MOTION FLEUR DE LIZ, MAKE GARLANDS & SWAGS, BASKET WEAVING LATTICE DESIGN, 12 DIFF. DESIGNS FOR TOP & SIDES OF CAKE, DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OR ROSE BOUQUET, SWEET PEA CARNATION.

LESSON 2 - 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK & FLORAL WIRE. LEARN SUGAR MOLDING CAKES, FAN BOOTIES, BASKET CRIB, HEART MARY'S HEAD, THE LION KING DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE. 2 ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAYBOX TO AKE HOME CAKES.

LESSON 3 - MARZIPAN (FREE HAND) MOLDING & PAINTING OF FRUITS FIGURES & VEGETABLES LEARN THE MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE & FRUIT PIPING DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS, FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS, WHICH HOTELS & LUXURY LINERS SERVE.

LESSON 4 - HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANTE / WEDDING CAKES, TIERED, STACKED, ETC. EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN & DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME. PLS BRING TRAYBOX.

HOME BUSINESS

AUG. 14 SUN 2:00 - 6:30PM - 7 MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 1 - GERMAN (BRATWURST); HUNGARIAN KIELBASA, MEXICAN LA GREEK, SHEBOYGAN BRATS; CHORIZO MACAO AND BAGUIO SAUSAGES. BONUS. ATCHARA & HOT POTATO SALAD **BY LENI R. ARAULLO. P1,200. WHO SOLD HAM & SAUSAGES TO HOTELS RESTAURANTS SINCE 1963.**

FOODCART

AUG. 15 & 22(2 MONDAYS) MAKE MONEY BY LEARNING 15 DELICIOUS RECIPES IN 2 LESSONS. P1,800 INCLUDING INGREDIENTS A SPECIAL FRUITCAKE, 3 VERSIONS OF BROWNIES . (DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE, CHOCOLATE CARAMEL FUDGE, WALNUT-TOPPED DARK & LIGHT BARS) 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF WELL-KNOWN MUFFINS, 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES **FOR TEENAGERS & ABOVE. BY ERNEST.**

AUG. 16 TUES 2:30 - 5:30 PM - EASY HONGKONG RESTAURANT COURSE- SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE STEAKS W/ MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN; SHRIMP & CRAB CLAWS & BALLS IN NEST W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE; HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER; MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST W/ CASUY; LAPU LAPU FILLET IN CREAM OF CORN SAUCE; LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER-GARLIC SPRITE. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

AUG 17, 24, 31 - WED 9:00AM - 5:00PM (3 LESSONS) FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE. P3,500 INCLUDES INGREDIENTS LUNCH & SNACKS.

LESSON 1 - DAISY TULIP, SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA, MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES, STEAMENS & CALYXES FOR FUTURE USE.

LESSON 2 - CAKE (STYRO) COVERED WITH FONDANT ICING & 'CUT GLASS' TECHNIQUES MAKE GUMAMELA LILIES, STEPHANOTIS, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNATION, DAFFODIL, WILTON ROSE, VICTORIA ROSE.

LESSON 3 - ORCHID, GUMPASTE RIBBONS & SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE(FOR TAKE HOME) **BY LENI ARAULLO**

FASTFOOD

AUG 18 THU 2:30PM - 5:30PM MONEY MAKING CHINESE FASTFOOD RECIPES - WONTON NOODLE SOUP, DELICIOUS MAKI SOUP, STIR FRIED LOMI; KUTCHAY DUMPLINGS W/ EASY TO MAKE HOMEMADE WRAPPER; PORK CURRY RICE, AUTHENTIC CHINESE STYLE SHRIMP FRIED RICE **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

AUG 19 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES MOZZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN), THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS, FETTUCINE ALFREDO, SPAGHETTI, CARBONARA BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON, PEACH FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

HOME BUSINESS

AUG 21 SUN 2:00 - 6:30PM - DELICIOUS SAUSAGES II FOR BUSINESS! CHINESE SAUSAGE FOR SIOPAO FILLING (LOP CHONG), LONGANIZA ANISADO, CHICKEN MUSHROOM SWEET SAUSAGE JAPANESE STYLE, PERUVIAN HOTDOGS, SMOKED BRATWURST #2, CHEROKEE INDIAN SAUSAGES SERVED IN CASINOS IN THE US **P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO.**

RESTAURANTS & CATERERS

AUG 23 TUE 2:30 - 5:30PM - PASTAS & SALAD FESTIVALS! 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! BEEF CHEESY BAKED MACARONI, SPAGHETTI W/ PHILADELPHIA CREAM SAUCE; MEXICAN CORNMEAL CASSEROLE; SCALLOPED POTATOES SMOTHERED W/ KRAFT MOZZARELLA CHEESE, CHICKEN ASPARAGUS SALAD, CENTURY TUNA APPLE SALAD; VEGETABLE BOWL W/ FRENCH DRESSING, MELTINGLY DELICIOUS EGG CASSEROLE **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

AUG 25 THU 2:00 - 5:30PM - WILTON DECORATED COOKIES. PLEASE SEE AUG 7 FOR DETAILS. P600.

AUG 26 FRI 2:30 - 6:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT FILLING & PICKLED MUSTASA). FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELLENADO, QUIKIAM W/ RADISH SALAD STEAMED LAPULAPU **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

HOME BUSINESS

AUG 28 SUN 2:00 - 6:30PM - MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3 - LEARN 7 OF YOUR FAVORITES, FOOT-LONG HOTDOGS, BEEF SAUSAGES JERKY USING "VIPPI" CASING USED FOR HOTDOG-MAKING, WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN 5-STAR HOTELS & RESTAURANTS, PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO, LONGANIZA LUCBAN **P1,500.**

BAKESHOPS

AUG 30 & SEP 6 - 2 TUESDAYS 2:30 - 5:30PM - P1,800 - MONEY-MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES COURSE - (#1 SELLER IN MANILA) - CHOCOLATE-COATED POPCORN, CREAM-FILLED CUPCAKES, STICKY WALNUT BROWNIES, CHUNKY CHOCO COOKIES; GERMAN STYLE FUDGE CAKE W/ ICING, CHOCOLATE TURTLE CHEESECAKE, SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE; SYRUPY BROWNIES, WALNUT CRUNCH BROWNIES, NEW ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES, THE BEST MELT-IN-THE-MOUTH TIRAMISU #2 **BY ERNEST**

✓ VISIT OUR WEBSITES: http://uk.geocities.com/sylviareynosogala & www.sylviareynosogala.com

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MEAT LOAF
LIVER SPREAD
VIENNA SAUSAGE
Century TUNA
RICOA BREAKFAST COCOA
Panasonic MICROWAVE OVENS & KITCHEN APPLIANCES
Hunt's
Magnolia Gold Pure & Creamy Butter
Magnolia FRESH CHICKEN
MONTEREY QUALITY MEATS

A SLICE of Brooklyn /D3

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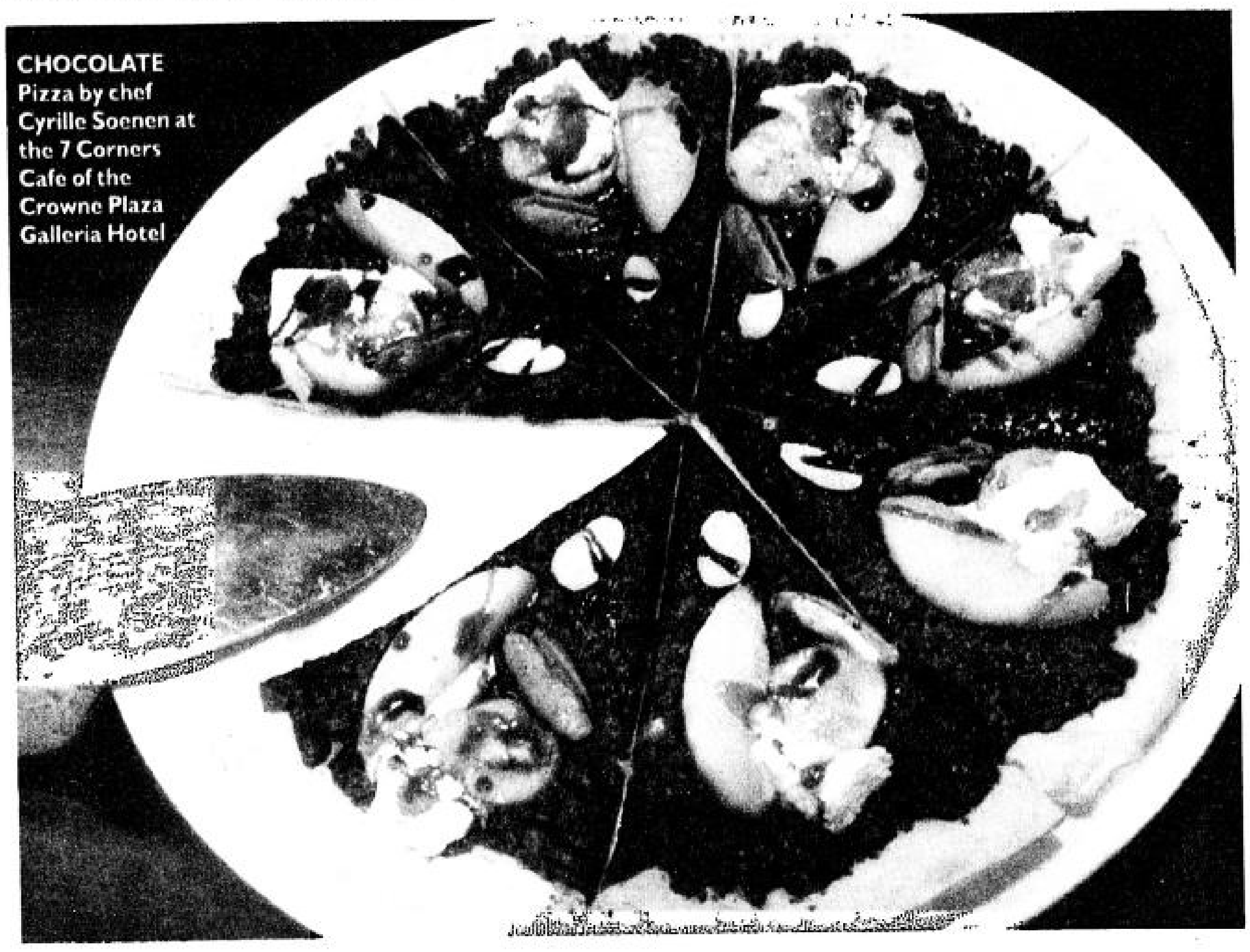
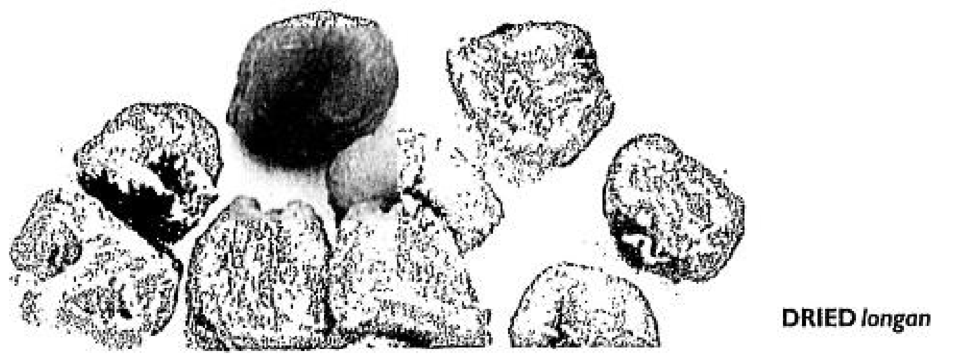
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



CHOCOLATE Pizza by chef Cyrille Soenen at the 7 Corners Cafe of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel



DRIED *longan*

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Basic Basics Enhanced Series... Plus More Topics included

The Maya Kitchen offers an interdisciplinary approach combining essentials of catering, cooking of Japanese food in the Basic Basics Courses. Perfect for those who want to set up a Catering and Japanese Restaurant business and who want an exciting twist to their repertoire. Enroll now and expand your cooking creativity.

Catering Seminar: Aug. 24 - 26 (W-F) 2 - 6 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering business. Facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of popular Filipino & international dishes: Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup, Baked Spring Rolls, Rolled Porkloin Adobo Style, Roast Stuffed Chicken Thighs with Garlic Gravy, Chicken Galantina, Vegetable Samosa, Creamed Spinach Soup, Spicy Chicken Wings, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia & special dessert. Free cookbook. P3,000

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment. Pre-registration required. Ingredients, Apron, chef's hat included.)

Basic Cooking: Aug. 2 - 5 / 16-19 (T-F) 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. More topics included! Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000

Basic Cake Decorating: Aug. 6 & 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers incl. bunching techniques. Individual workshop on icing application & cake designing. P3,000

Basic Baking: Aug. 9 - 12 or 23 - 26 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to the preparation of different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. P4,000 with free cookbook.

Japanese Dishes **(Traditional & Modern Dishes)** : Aug. 9 - 11 (T - Th) 2 - 5 p.m. Tempura, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Sushi, Kamameshi, Japanese Hamburger with Onion Sauce, Chicken Katsu, Pumpkin Croquettes, Rolled Cabbage with Meat Sauce, Ham & Potato Curry Japanese Style, Macaroni Salad, Sweet & Sour Pork. Japanese Fried Chicken, Grilled Tofu, Crab Omelet, Steamed Chicken with Goma Sesame Sauce by Chef Seiji Kamura. P5,000.

Basic Waitering & Bartending : Aug. 20 & 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Basic setup, techniques of suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding & skirting, Bar tools and glass wares, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish. With actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting. P3,000

Other Services: Recipe Research & Product Development; Food & Beverage Consultancy & Staff Training; Provincial Demonstration; On-the-Job Training Program.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

More healing recipes

Here are more home remedies, from Soup No. 5 to Sesame Congee

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

"WOW" is the best way to describe the stir that last week's column caused. Now, I am Dr. Quack-quack! Thank you very much for your trust and confidence, but, as I previously mentioned, the remedies do not substitute for medical attention. They are mere aids to boost the system of those suffering from specific conditions. Along with prescription inquiries came more recipe requests for everything from Soup No. 5 to other home remedies. So here is part two of recipes that heal.

Oh, and remember the ingredients that are unfamiliar to you are available at Chinese groceries. The best places to go are Chinatown and Aranque. Another good source would be the Chinese Drug Stores on Alonzo Street in Binondo. You will definitely find everything there!

For those inquiries pertaining to a good Chinese doctor, my students recommend Mr. Ong (tel. 2446058/2414299), who by the way also sells the herbs and ingredients for these recipes.

Thanks again to Maritess, Alice and Tita Fe, for all the useful tips, for translating and for all the information!

Soup No. 5 or "Viagra Soup"

(*For virility*)

1 set beef penis (may be bought from meat vendor)

200 g lean pork

40 g *huang qi* milk *velch* root, aka "pak-ki" (strengthens immune system; good for common cold, upper respiratory infections, chronic degenerative diseases, cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, nephritis and diabetes

20 g *dang shen* aka "tong-shen" (for anti-fatigue and improves immune system)

Chinese yam—aka "wai san"

Ginger slices

Wash and clean beef penis and pork, scald in boiling water 30 minutes, cut into pieces and set aside. Wash *tong-shen* and *pak-ki* and Chinese yam; drain. Combine all ingredients in a stock pot, add ginger and enough water to cover. Simmer three hours or until tender, season with salt and serve.

Sesame Congee

(Benefits liver and kidneys, nourishes blood)

38 g black sesame seeds (prevents hair loss and premature graying of hair, good for kidney and liver, invigorates blood, relieves pain, regenerates muscles, treats skin ulcers, eases constipation)

38 g rice

38 g walnuts (improves brain function, good for lungs, skin, kidney and prevents hair loss)

6 c water

Boil ingredients with 6 c water until rice is tender. Serve every other day.

Dried Mushrooms with Carrots

(For longevity and cancer prevention)

Dried mushrooms (good for cold prevention, tumors, lung cancer and leukemia)

225 g carrots, peeled and cubed

6 dried black Chinese mushrooms, soaked in warm water until soft

5 c water

Sugar, preferably rock sugar

Combine ingredients with 5 c water, bring to a boil and simmer 1 ½ hours. Season with sugar.

Sweet Potato Soup

(Good for the blood, intestines, heals inflammation and constipation and detoxifies)

Dried figs (dried form of the fruit—good for hemorrhoids, digestion, prevents lung cancer, inflammations; use the Chinese variety)

76 g dried figs

114 g sweet potatoes, cubed

76 *ampalaya*, seeded and sliced, detoxifies, improves skin

5 c water

MORE/ D4

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City

About Chef Dennis: Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist* Owner of Jocunde Cakes* Took over classes from the Famed Gourmet, Maur Aquino Lichauco in New Manila* Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion En-Ming Hsu of the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel), Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist- Betty Van Norstrand, Food Stylist-Delores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines

August 6, 2005: BUNDT CAKES 3 (Rave Reviews Awaits These) __NEW CLASS__ Decadent Chocolate Rum Cake, Lemon and Lime Honey Bundt Cake, Strawberries and Cream Bundt Cake, Butter Brickle Bundt, Peanut Butter & Banana Cake-P1600

August 13, 2005:BAKING WITH TITA MAUR LICHAUCO (A Rare Opportunity to Take a Glimpse of Tita Maur's Techniques) __NEW CLASS__ One Sweet Dough, Endless Possibilities Holiday Wreath Bread, Cheese Rolls, Torta, Parker Rolls, Corned Beef Buns-P1850
*(Pre-registration and Pre-payment is REQUIRED for this class. Payments would be accepted at #137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila between August 8-11, 2005, 8:00AM-5:00PM, OR during the Bundt Cakes 3 Class. ONLY PAID REGISTRATIONS WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED to give way to those who are waitlisted. WALK-IN STUDENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.)

August 20, 2005: MORE HOLIDAY GOODIES (Great Ideas to Plan Your Holiday Gift Giving) __NEW CLASS__ Food For The Gods Cookies, Crisp and Chewy Oatmeal Cookies, Maple and Cashew Nugget Cookies, Moist Peanut Butter Oatmeal Bars, Apple Pie Coffee Cake with Queso de Bola Streusel-P1600

August 27, 2005: HOLIDAY TREATS (Gift Giving Suggestions for the Holidays) __NEW CLASS__ Melts in the Mouth Peanut Butter Cookies, Double Chocolate Cheesecake Swirl Loaf, Carrot Banana Loaf with Caramel Cream Cheese Frosting, Individual Apple Tart Tatin on Breton Sable, Custard Surprise Orange Bundt Cake-P1600

*Classes include Ingredients, Recipe Hand Outs, and Product Shares.

*For Inquiries and Reservations Please CALL/TEXT 0917-8486656 or EMAIL us at gourmetpastry@aol.com. LOOK for GIRARD or YVETTE.

*CLASSES ARE: 1:00PM-4:30PM, (__Limited Seats Available__)

New!

BBQ
Flame-grilled with a tangy barbecue taste

Crispy
Family Basket's famous crispy fried chicken

Max's Super Chicken Sampler P489

Di lang isa ang sarap to the bones, kundi apat na! Ang bagong Max's Super Chicken Sampler - apat na secret recipes - Original Max's Fried Chicken, BBQ, Crispy, and Sweet & Spicy - all in one platter!

Tender
Original sarap to the bones fried chicken

Sweet & Spicy
Succulent chicken made delectably sweet and spicy

FREE 4 glasses of Pepsi and 2 Cheetos with every order of Max's Super Chicken Sampler!

Sixty years of sarap to the bones.

Promo period: July 22 - September 4, 2005
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Free Pepsi 1.5 Liters for Take-out and Delivery.
Not valid with other promotions/discounts.
Free items are non-convertible to cash or other products.

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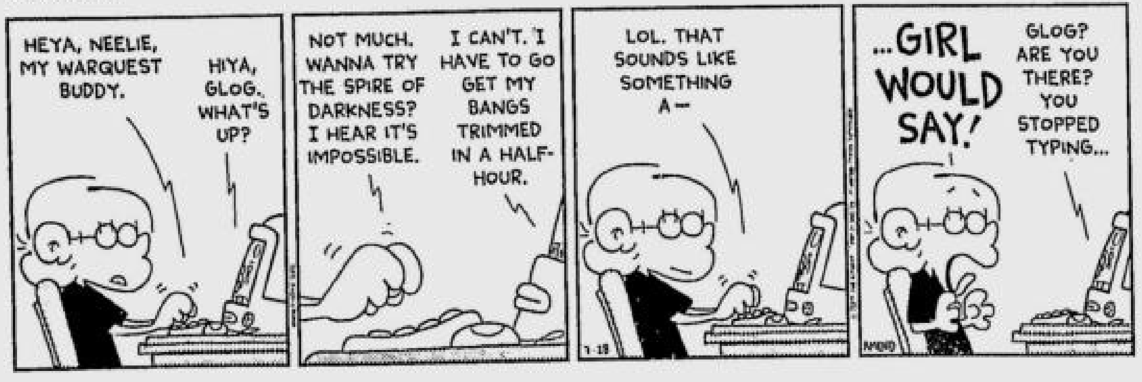
Max's since 1945

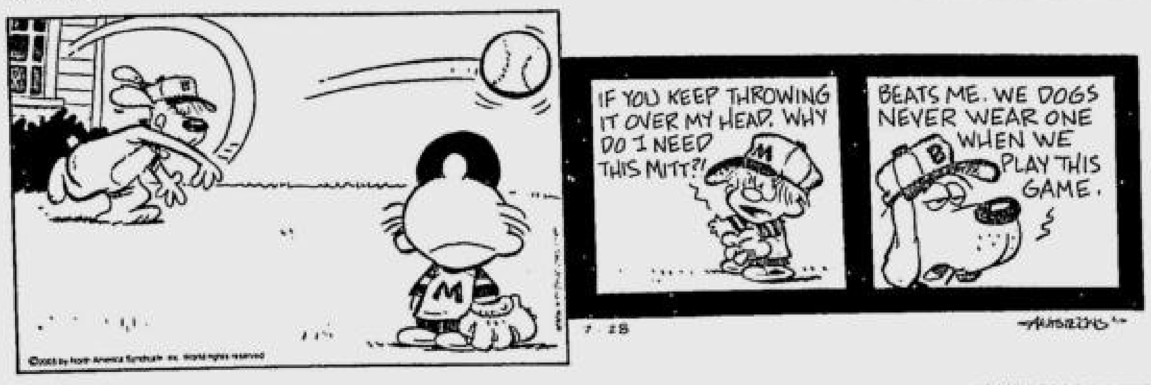
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HEYA, NEELIE, MY WARQUEST BUDDY.
HIYA, GLOG. WHAT'S UP?
NOT MUCH. WANNA TRY THE SPIRE OF DARKNESS? I HEAR IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I CAN'T. I HAVE TO GO GET MY BANGS TRIMMED IN A HALF-HOUR.
LOL. THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A—
...GIRL WOULD SAY!
GLOG? ARE YOU THERE? YOU STOPPED TYPING...

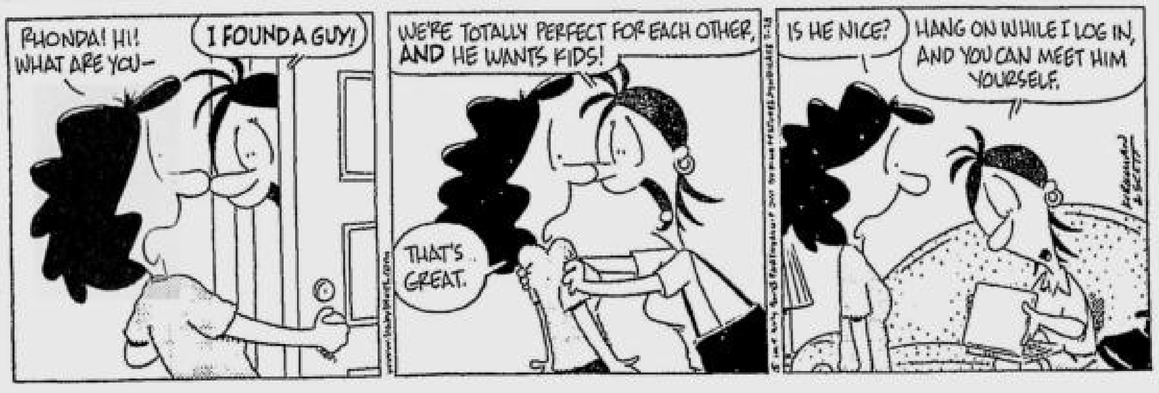
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IF YOU KEEP THROWING IT OVER MY HEAD, WHY DO I NEED THIS MITT?!
BEATS ME. WE DOGS NEVER WEAR ONE WHEN WE PLAY THIS GAME.

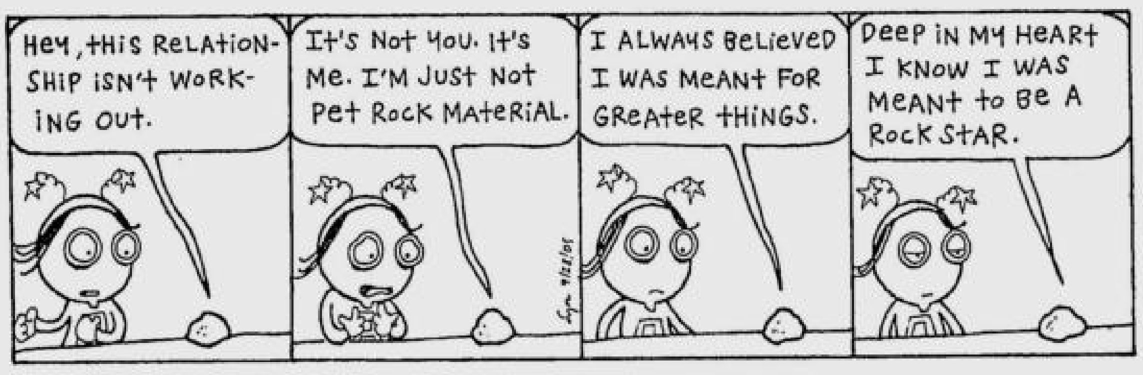
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


RHONDA! HI! WHAT ARE YOU—
I FOUND A GUY!
WE'RE TOTALLY PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER, AND HE WANTS KIDS!
THAT'S GREAT.
IS HE NICE?
HANG ON WHILE I LOG IN, AND YOU CAN MEET HIM YOURSELF.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, this relationship isn't working out.
It's not you. It's me. I'm just not pet rock material.
I always believed I was meant for greater things.
Deep in my heart I know I was meant to be a rock star.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You love the arts, theater, music, drama and dance. You will either pursue the arts or support them. Children and partnerships are always important to you. Your loved ones appreciate your kind, generous nature. This year major changes take place in your life—changes for the better (perhaps as significant as in 1996). **Birthdate of: Beatrix Potter, author; Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, editor/former first lady; Jim Davis, cartoonist.**

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Focus on money, finances and banking issues now. You probably want to buy something today. Since you're often quite impulsive, make sure you think carefully before you spend your money.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today, and this brings you a little bit of good luck. However, it can also make you more emotional than usual. (It's nothing to worry about.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Try to get a little bit of time alone today. You need a few moments of privacy to collect your thoughts. You'll feel better afterward if you can do this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with a friend, perhaps a female friend, could be very meaningful today. Be open for an opportunity to let this take place. (You'll be glad you did.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might do something today that calls attention to yourself, whether you want it or not. Just be aware of this. (People notice you now.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be open to ideas from people from other cultures or different backgrounds. Something unusual will likely come your way. Be tolerant; you might learn something new!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a greater sympathy and ability to understand where others are coming from today. You truly see both sides of the issue. Maybe you can help others do the same.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's Moon opposes your sign. This pulls your attention to others, especially partners and close friends. It can also make you attracted to someone. (Hmmm. New romance?)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Talk to coworkers about how to achieve better success on the job. Feedback from others might help things. As they say: Two heads are better than none!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a lovely day for playful activities with children. It's also a good day to enjoy entertaining and amusing diversions. Have fun!

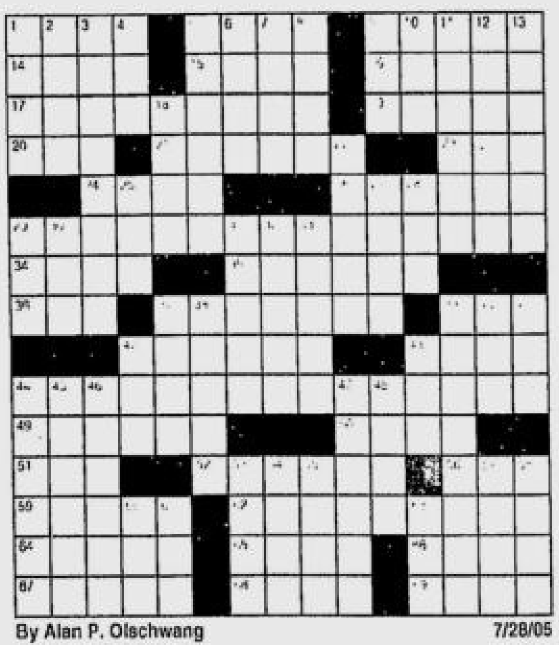
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Talk to a family member today, especially a parent. Something important needs to be settled here. Look for a win/win solution; it does exist.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Trust your gut instincts when talking to others today. Logic is not the only way to arrive at the right answer. Sometimes you have to listen to your heart. (This is one of those times.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 NHL star Phil, to fans
5 Kind of kick
9 March Madness sport, informally
14 Bread spread
15 Lubricates
16 Harden
17 Start of A.H. Weiler quote
19 Distributed
20 Fr. holy woman
21 Attached shed
23 Successor of the CAB
24 Provoke
26 Portray
29 Part 2 of quote
34 O'Casey or Connery
35 Performed alone
36 Part 3 of quote
37 Oater bars
39 Part 4 of quote
42 West Point students
43 Word before beer or canal
44 Part 5 of quote
49 Lent follower
50 Canned
51 Frequently, in poems
52 Cosa __ (crime syndicate)
56 Wall St. debut
59 Roman Artemis
62 End of quote
64 Fall bloomer
65 Withered
66 Beginning on
67 Butler of fiction
68 Cassowary cousins
69 Ed and Mel of baseball

DOWN
1 Ages and ages
2 Coin channel
3 "I'm Flying" musical
4 Gee!
5 Recipients
6 Latvia's capital
7 Lena of "Havana"
8 Attention getter
9 That guy
10 Five before six
11 Equip
12 Sermonize
13 Tranquil
18 Misfortunes
22 Nickel add-on?
25 Charged particle
27 Calais summers
28 Pea holder
29 Belief system
30 __ culpa
31 Speck in the ocean
32 Lincoln's assassin
33 Peruvian writer Mario Vargas
37 Rational
38 Bedeck
39 Most ligneous
40 Mortar carrier
41 Of the ear
42 IL winter hrs.
43 Numbered hwy.
44 Himalayan cedar
45 Like a clod
46 Will contents
47 Makes diverse
48 Midterm or final
53 Seine tributary
54 Plant part
55 By way of, briefly
57 Storyline
58 Switch positions
60 Butterfly catcher
61 Museum purchase
63 Portuguese saint



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
7/28/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

H	E	R	C	■	S	A	W	S	■	S	L	U	G	S
E	D	O	M	■	A	L	O	E	■	T	O	R	R	E
L	E	V	E	L	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	C	O	W
P	R	E	G	O	■	E	T	R	E	■	T	H	O	U
■	■	R	A	C	K	■	H	A	L	S	■	I	M	P
I	N	S	■	H	O	L	Y	■	S	T	E	N	■	■
N	O	N	E	■	P	A	B	A	■	E	L	F	I	N
C	O	A	S	T	S	H	O	R	E	P	L	A	N	E
A	N	K	L	E	■	R	A	N	I	■	E	R	N	S
■	■	F	O	N	D	■	R	O	O	T	■	E	S	S
B	M	W	■	D	E	E	D	■	N	E	A	R	■	■
L	E	A	P	■	S	T	L	C	■	A	L	L	A	Y
O	T	T	E	R	S	H	E	L	L	S	C	A	P	E
C	R	E	P	E	■	O	G	E	E	■	A	N	I	L
K	O	R	E	A	■	S	S	G	T	■	N	E	A	P

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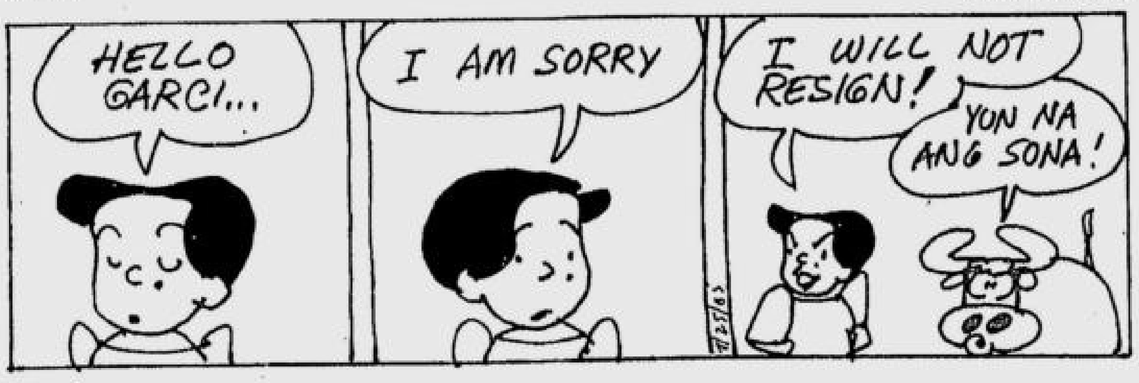
7/26/05

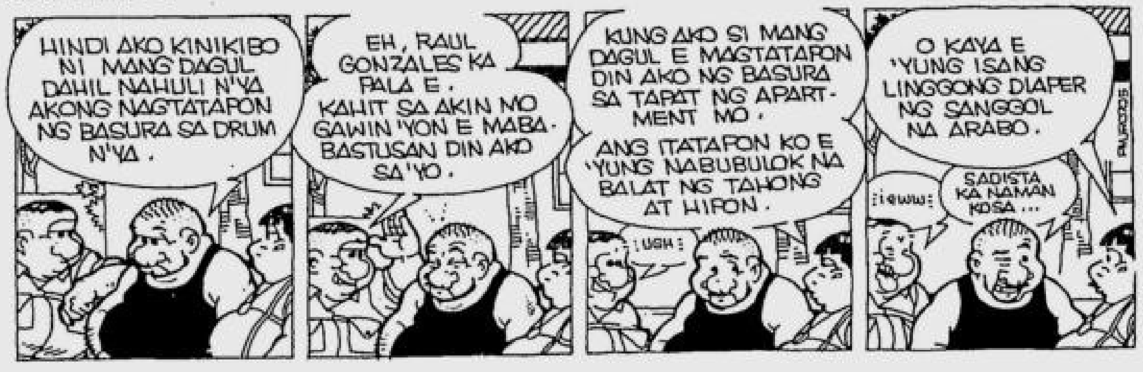
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HELLO GARCI...
I AM SORRY
I WILL NOT RESIGN!
YUN NA ANG SONA!

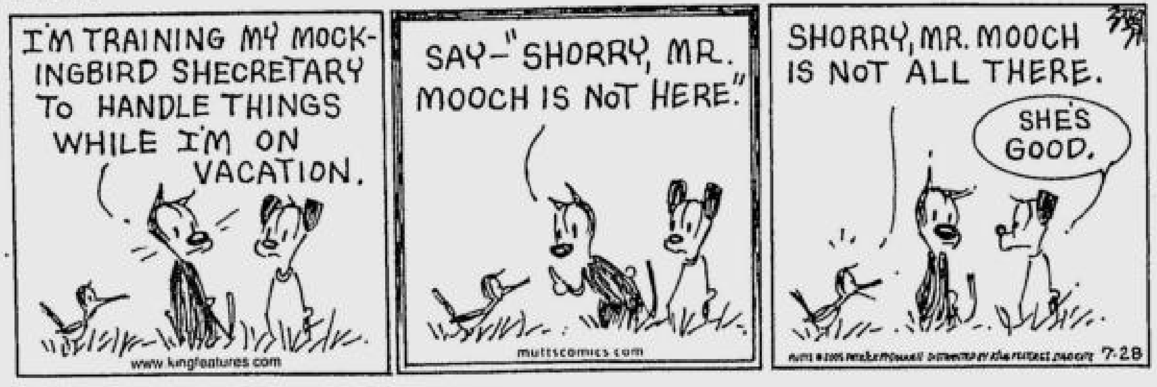
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI AKO KINIKIBO NI MANG DAGUL DAHIL NAHULI N'YA AKONG NAGTATAPON NG BASURA SA DRUM N'YA.
EH, RAUL GONZALES KA PALA E. KAHIT SA AKIN MO GAWIN 'YON E MABABASTUSAN DIN AKO SA'YO.
KUNG AKO SI MANG DAGUL E MAGTATAPON DIN AKO NG BASURA SA TAPAT NG APARTMENT MO.
ANG ITATAPON KO E 'YUNG NABUBULOK NA BALAT NG TAHONG AT HIPON.
¡UGH¡
O KAYA E 'YUNG ISANG LINGGONG DIAPER NG SANGGOL NA ARABO.
¡IEWW¡
SADISTA KA NAMAN KOSA...

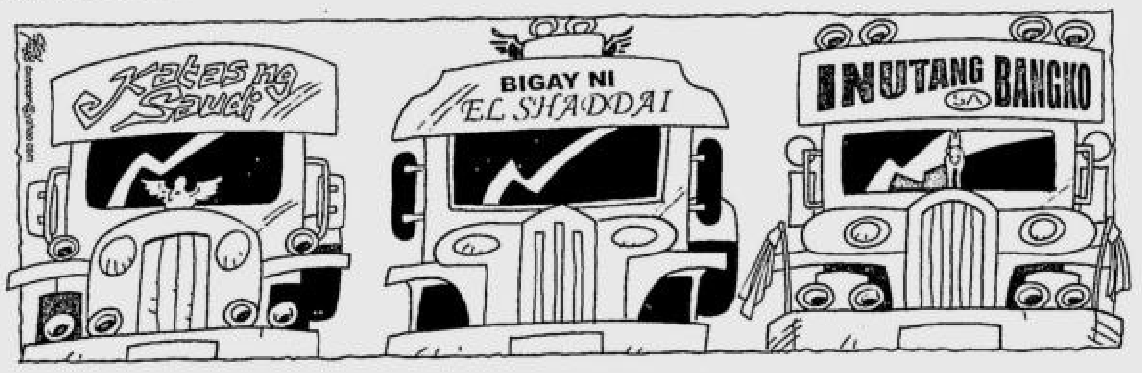
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M TRAINING MY MOCKINGBIRD SHECRETARY TO HANDLE THINGS WHILE I'M ON VACATION.
SAY—"SHORRY, MR. MOOCH IS NOT HERE."
SHORRY, MR. MOOCH IS NOT ALL THERE.
SHE'S GOOD.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
7-28

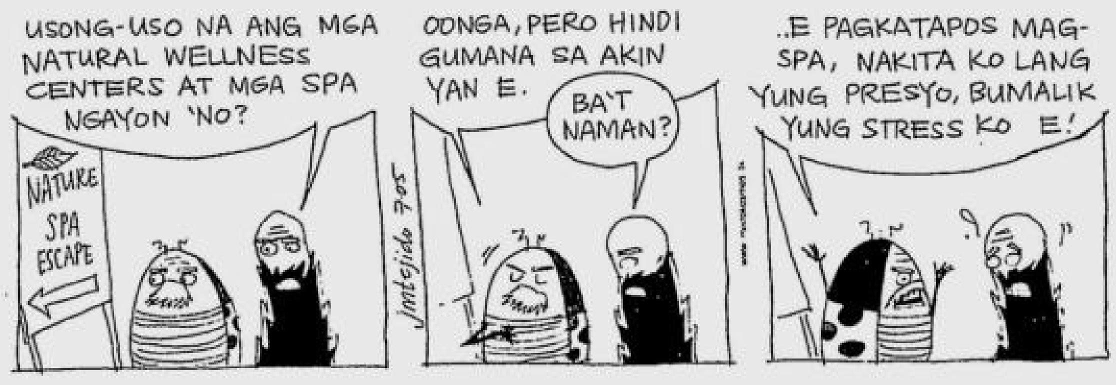
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


Katas ng Saudi
BIGAY NI EL SHADDAI
INUTANG BANGKO S/A

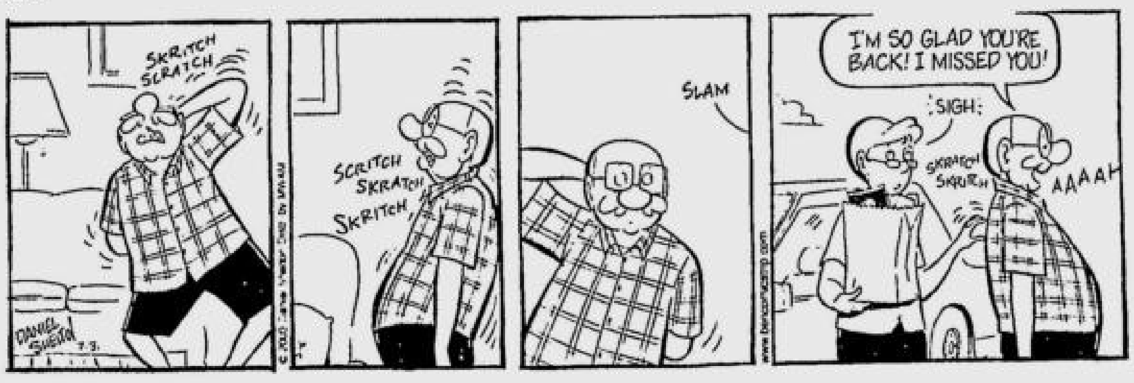
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


USONG-USO NA ANG MGA NATURAL WELLNESS CENTERS AT MGA SPA NGAYON 'NO?
NATURE SPA ESCAPE
OONGA, PERO HINDI GUMANA SA AKIN YAN E.
BA'T NAMAN?
..E PAGKATAPOS MAG-SPA, NAKITA KO LANG YUNG PRESYO, BUMALIK YUNG STRESS KO E!

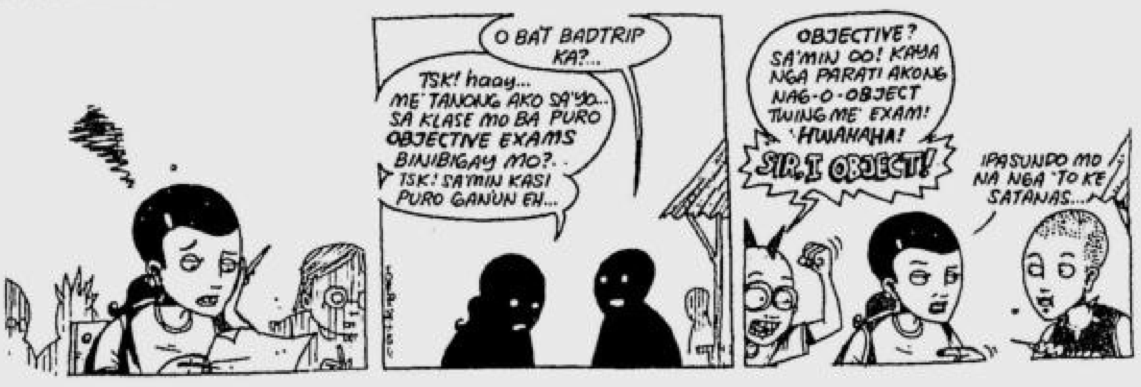
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SKRITCH SCRATCH
SCRITCH SKRATCH SKRITCH
SLAM
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK! I MISSED YOU!
:SIGH:
SKRATCH SKRUTCH
AAAAH

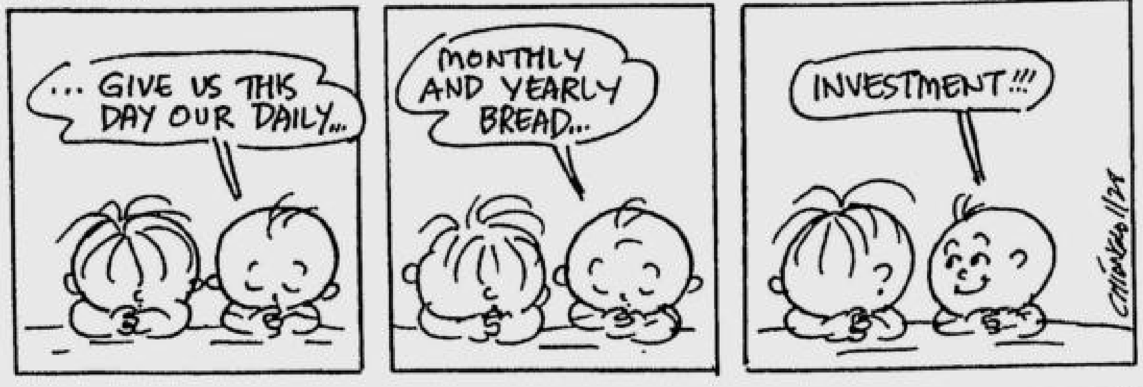
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O BAT BADTRIP KA?...
TSK! haay... ME' TANONG AKO SA'YO.. SA KLASE MO BA PURO OBJECTIVE EXAMS BINIBIGAY MO?..
TSK! SA'MIN KASI PURO GANUN EH...
OBJECTIVE? SA'MIN OO! KAYA NGA PARATI AKONG NAG-O-OBJECT TWING ME' EXAM! HWAHAHA!
SIR, I OBJECT!
IPASUNDO MO NA NGA 'TO KE SATANAS...

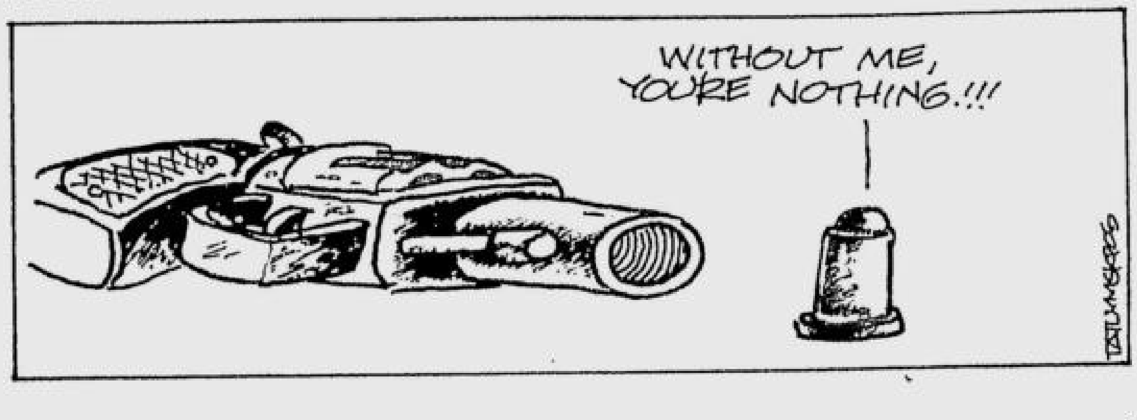
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


... GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY...
MONTHLY AND YEARLY BREAD...
INVESTMENT!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WITHOUT ME, YOU'RE NOTHING.!!!

A taste of Brooklyn, minus the bridge

In a New York state of mind? This pizzeria serves 18-inch NY-style pizzas and, best of all, sells them by the slice

By Cheche V. Moral

ITS big claim is that it doesn't make New York-*style* pizzas; it makes *New York* pizzas. And the owner of Brooklyn Pizza feels confident it can back its claim.

For two years, residents of BF Homes Parañaque and its neighboring areas have been trooping to this nondescript hole-in-the-wall pizzeria named after one of New York's boroughs. The tiny pizzeria serves typically New York-size 18-inch pizzas—big compared to the 14-inch ones Filipinos are accustomed to, but just right for a hungry family's late-night dinner.

The comparison doesn't end there, according to owner George Kho. Brooklyn Pizza uses a raised crust, which is slightly thicker than the typical thin-crust but significantly thinner than the usual pan-style crust of pizza chains. The dough has the right combination of crisp and soft-chewy texture, Kho claims. All crusts are hand-tossed, he adds, and they retain their texture even after reheating. They are cooked in a deck oven, which ensures slower cooking compared to the standard conveyor oven.

"You can't cook the dough too fast," he says. "Our way takes slightly longer but you are assured of the quality."

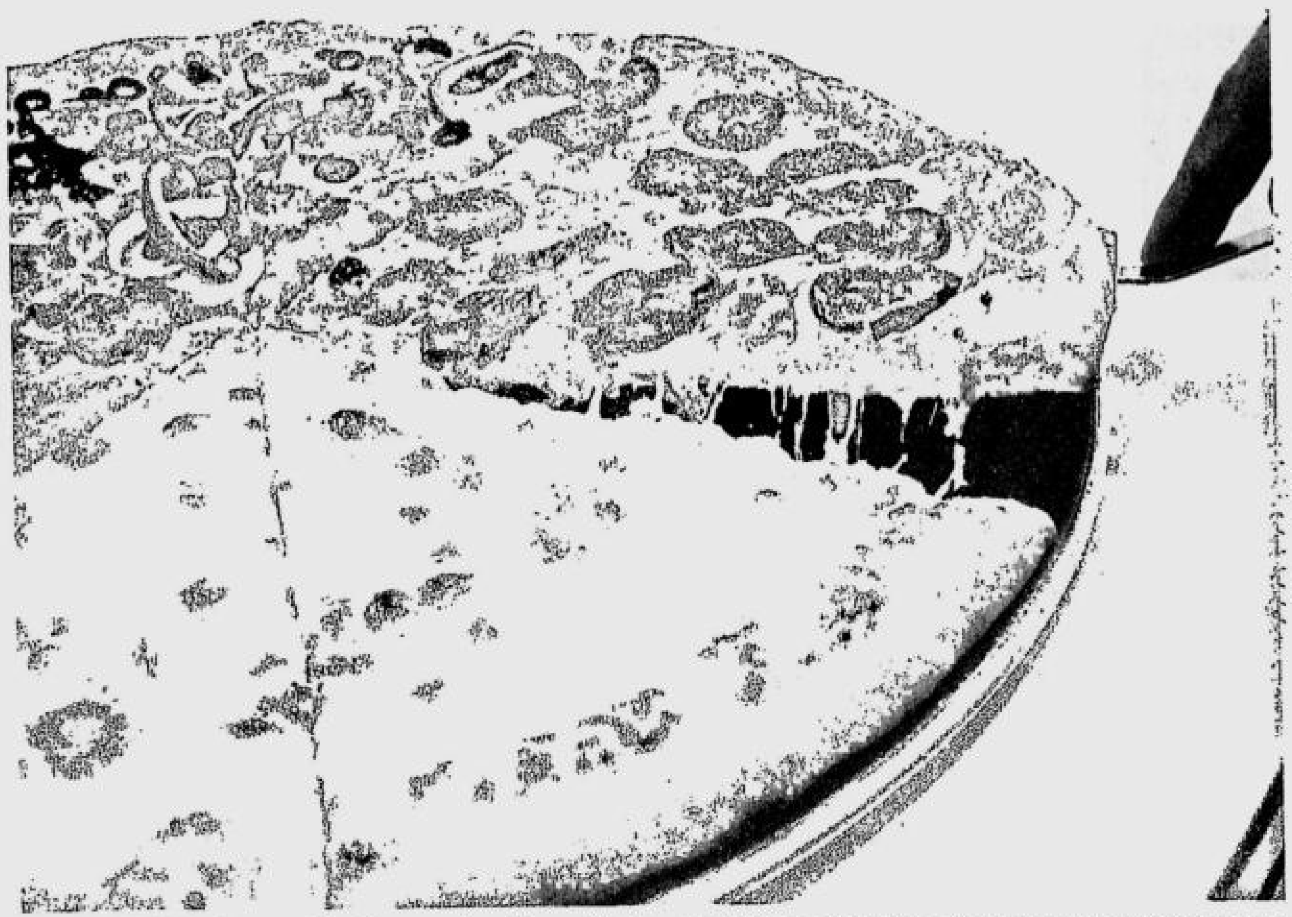
Since Kho believes the secret to a truly authentic New York pizza isn't just in the crust, this former I.T. professional singlehandedly concocted his own sauces, as he remembered them from his first taste of a New York pizza on a family trip to the Big Apple.

"I wasn't a pizza person," Kho recalls. His brother practically had to beg him to try a slice. "I never forgot how good it was that it stayed on my mind even after we returned home."

So unforgettable, in fact, that he embarked on a personal quest to come up with the right New York pizza recipe that would lead him to quit his job and venture into the unfamiliar food trade.

Extraordinary knack

Although admittedly not a foodie, Kho has such an extraordinary knack for putting ingredients together that the kitchen may as well be his primary domain. After numerous experiments, he now believes he has winners in his recipes.



BROOKLYN Pizza's top-selling flavors—the all-meat Porko, everything-on-it Deluxe, classic Pepperoni and all-cheese White

PHOTOS: ROGER CARPIO

HAND-TOSSED dough that retains its crisp-chewy texture even after reheating

Perhaps proof of this is Brooklyn's record of 145 pizzas sold in one day in BF. A small figure if one thinks in terms of pizza chains, but significant for a place that's practically just a takeout counter.

This has emboldened the young entrepreneur to bring Brooklyn to Makati and pit itself against popular chains and fast-food restaurants. Kho aims to cater to the business district and Makati's villages.

Located on Pasong Tamo near Buendia, Brooklyn's Makati resto is equally a tiny affair, if slightly bigger than its Parañaque branch. It is still a takeout counter with two small tables that seat three each. For now, Brooklyn's business is primarily for takeout and delivery.

"Former New York residents and those who have traveled there write to compliment us for our pizzas," says Kho. "They are very grateful that, finally, here's a New York pizza as they know it."

New York pizza is actually very simple, notes Kho. He has decided to limit the menu to only 10 flavors. These include the classic Pepperoni (P440), the all-meat Porko (P480), the Vegetarian (P440), the family favorite Deluxe (P480) and the bestseller White (P400), which combines mozzarella, ricotta and Parmesan cheeses and garlic.

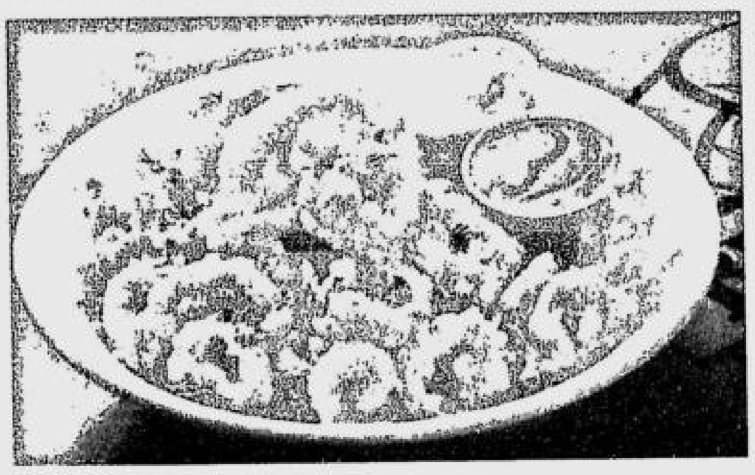
Those who prefer frills-free pizzas can opt for the Plain (P360), which is made of Parmesan and mozzarella cheeses combined with the house's "special red sauce" that Kho assures is made from real tomatoes, not from the can. Then there's the Anchovy and Garlic (P480), Sausage and Mushroom (P440), and Tomato and Garlic (P440).

Faithful to its "New York pizza" claim, Kho, says he plans to stick to the 18-inch size, but adds customers can order by the slice (from P45 to P60 each). One can also opt to combine four choice flavors in one pizza. Minimum delivery order is P200, or four slices of two choice flavors.

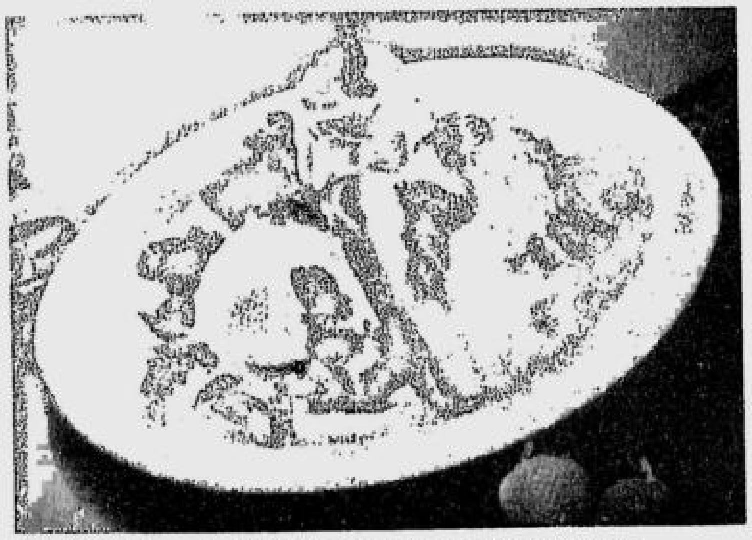
Kho is careful not to inflate the Brooklyn menu prematurely even as he's aware of Filipinos' penchant for variety. He wants to make sure he hits the right recipe for everything. Now he's deep into developing his version of Buffalo wings. That means those who like pastas with their pizzas can take their hunger elsewhere for now.

For Brooklyn Pizza in Makati call 8969696; in Parañaque, call 7757575.

STEAK New Orleans, Cajun flavored



CALAMARI Ring



THE NEW desserts stir the imagination and the tastebuds. Strawberry Dream is a buttery pound cake over Jenny's special sauce, topped with fresh strawberry purée and whipped cream.

A long-running hit

Forrest pal Bubba's dream shrimp boat is reborn as a cool dining place

REMEMBER the lovable Forrest Gump and his buddy Bubba? Well, the movie never quite had a last screening because it continues to be a hit as a shrimp specialty dining place.

Bubba Gump opened its doors at Greenbelt 3 about two years ago with finger-lickin' classic American style favorites on its menu, such as Forrest's Shrimp Net Catch (best shrimp steamed in beer and dipped in Bubba's Garlic Spice or Cajun Spice), Bubba's After the Storm Bucket of Boat Trash (deep fried tender shrimp, slipper lobster and mahi mahi, served with coleslaw and fries), Dixie-style Baby Back Ribs and the ever fast-selling Alabama Mud Pie.

New menu

While its signature dishes always fly off the menu, Chef Tony Tiu (originally of the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant in Maui, Hawaii) constantly introduces new instant favorites.

This month, Bubba Gump's new menu lineup includes appetizers such as Ping Pong Shrimp and Ping Pong Chicken (lightly breaded, deep fried until golden brown and tossed in our own firepot sauce to add a little spice) topped with a mango pineapple salsa to tickle the palette with a sweet finish.

The Steak New Orleans is a take on the spicy Cajun flavor and the Penne Pasta with Shrimp and Scallops is served sautéed with caramelized onions in a light vodka-tomato cream sauce.

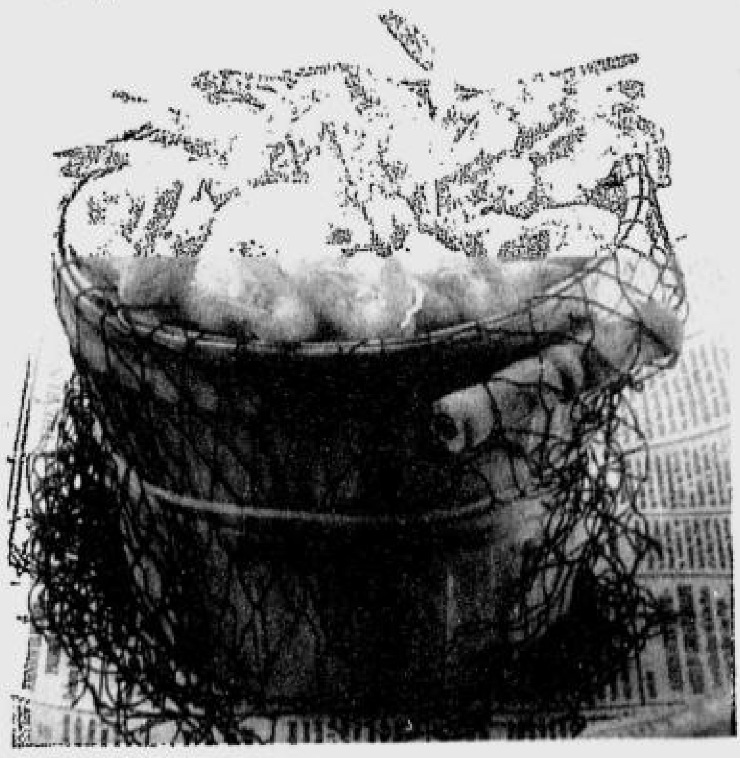
Grandma's Firepot Fish is Cajun-style mahi mahi with Grandma's firepot sauce and shrimp piled over heaps of white rice. Salmon and Veggie Skillet (also available with mahi mahi) is a light dish of grilled salmon spiced with a hint of garlic herb, and topped with fresh carrots, asparagus, red onions and capers served over white rice.

The new salad choices are Chicken Cobb Salad (grilled chicken tossed with fresh spring mix and Roma tomatoes, Bleu cheese crumbles, hard boiled eggs, bacon, avocado and red wine vinaigrette) and Greek Salad with the traditional feta cheese, olives, bell peppers and flavorful spring mix, served with your choice of perfectly grilled chicken or Cajun shrimp.

For sandwich eaters, there is Texas Cajun Chicken Sandwich—Cajun grilled chicken, crisp bacon, Jack cheese and homemade fresh Guacamole in a toasted bun.

The new desserts include Strawberry Dream, a buttery pound cake over Jenny's special sauce, topped with fresh strawberry puree and whipped cream, and Cinnamon Bread Pudding, topped with a creamy vanilla ice cream, confectioners sugar and soaking on in island of whiskey butter sauce.

Located at the second floor of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati, Bubba Gump is open for lunch daily at 11 a.m. and on to dinner till 1 a.m.



SHRIMPERS' Net Catch

I want a badminton racket
You need a new P.E. uniform
PSBank

Seminar on managing restos, canteens

MB&G/ProActive is conducting a seminar-workshop on Managing a Restaurant/Canteen 1-5 p.m., Aug. 1-5, at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The workshop is open to restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own food service business.

Reservations are currently being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Call 6871787 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is P5,000 per participant inclusive of manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment.

The five-day seminar will cover, among other things, planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; and cost control.

MB&G/ProActive has been in the business of training foodservice executives and hospitality business owners since 1989.

Cooking roast chicken, pasta

REGGIE Aspiras is offering the following classes:

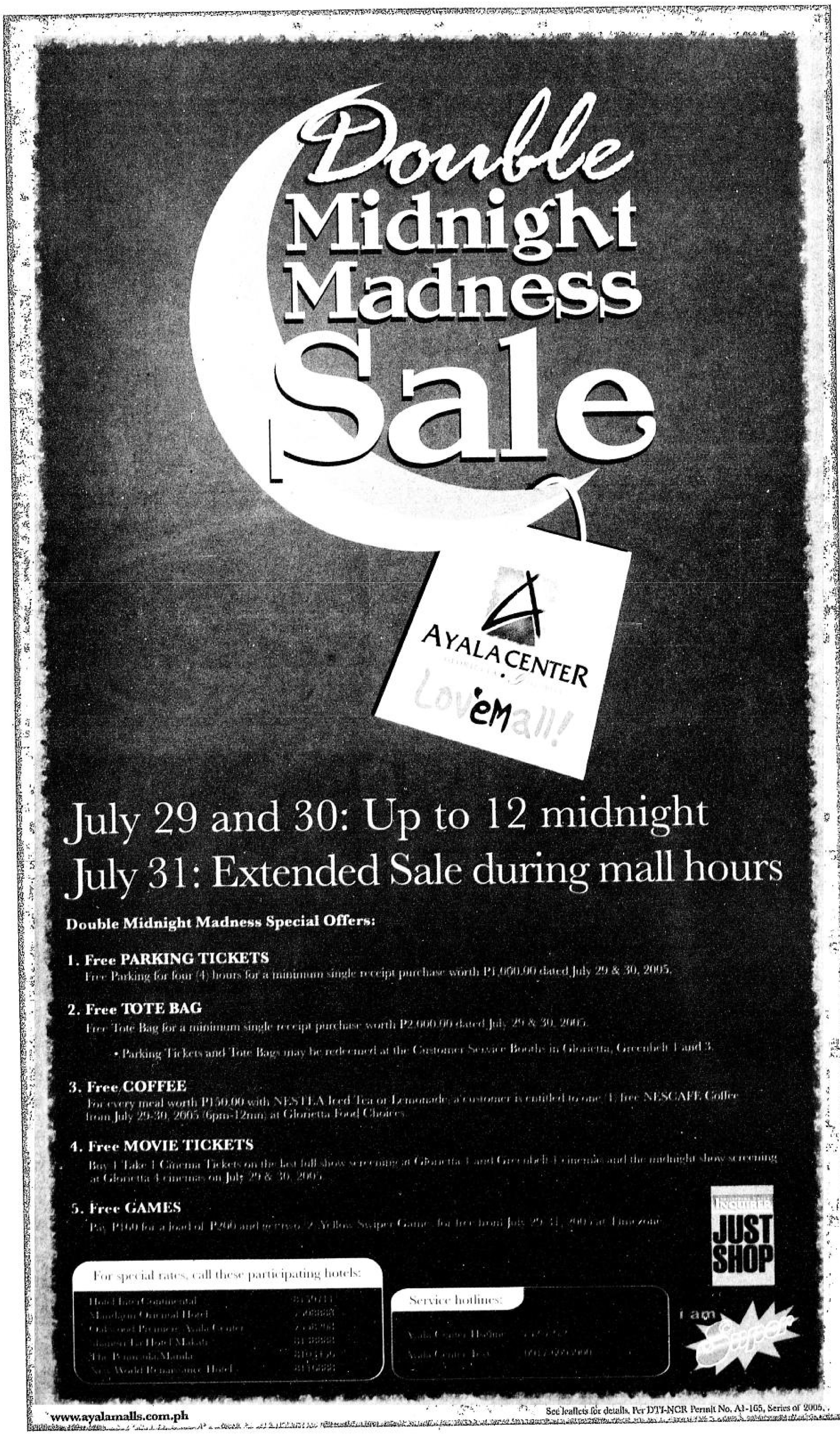
July 29: Roast Chicken 2005—Delicious and Juicy Brine Cured Roast, Garlic and Herb Roast, French Style with Sea Salt, Roast Chicken Duck Style with Plum and Chili Sauce. Salad, Side Dishes, Dessert

July 30: Pinoy-inspired Pastas—Bangus Belly with Spag in Tomato Garlic and Olive Oil, Tempura with Miso Noodles, Longganisa Pasta with Fried Sea Bass, Bulalo

Aug. 1: Seafood 2005—All-new!—Oyster and Mussels Platter, Whole Sea Bass in Salt Crust with Anchovy Sauce, Crab Spaghetti, Prawn Cakes with Fruit Salsa, Stuffed Squid with Lime, Prawns three ways: salted, en papillote, with cashews. Best-ever Seafood Bouillabaise.

Aug. 3: Meat! Meat! Meat!—All-new!—Beef and Herb Carpaccio Salad, Rack of Lamb with Herb and Pea and Purée, Whole Oven-baked Lamb Curry, Roast Beef two ways with Potatoes, and Beet Chutney and Chili—Orange Sauce, Fig Roasted Pork Loin, Cambozola Pork with Tomatoes.

Call 9289296/ 9273008/ 6335162/ 0917-8399888.


Double Midnight Madness Sale

AYALA CENTER
Love 'em all!

July 29 and 30: Up to 12 midnight
July 31: Extended Sale during mall hours

Double Midnight Madness Special Offers:

1. **Free PARKING TICKETS**
Free Parking for four (4) hours for a minimum single receipt purchase worth P1,000.00 dated July 29 & 30, 2005.

2. **Free TOTE BAG**
Free Tote Bag for a minimum single receipt purchase worth P2,000.00 dated July 29 & 30, 2005.
- Parking Tickets and Tote Bags may be redeemed at the Customer Service Booths in Glorietta, Greenbelt 1 and 3.

3. **Free COFFEE**
For every meal worth P150.00 with NESTEA Iced Tea or Lemonade, a customer is entitled to one (1) free NESCAFE Coffee from July 29-30, 2005 (6pm-12mn) at Glorietta Food Choices.

4. **Free MOVIE TICKETS**
Buy 1 Take 1 Cinema Tickets on the last full show screening at Glorietta 1 and Greenbelt 1 cinemas and the midnight show screening at Glorietta 4 cinemas on July 29 & 30, 2005.

5. **Free GAMES**
Pay P160 for a load of P200 and get two (2) Yellow Swiper Games for free from July 29-31, 2005 at Timezone.

For special rates, call these participating hotels:
Hotel InterContinental [illegible]
Mandarin Oriental Hotel [illegible]
Oakwood Premier Ayala Center [illegible]
Shangri-La Hotel Makati [illegible]
The Peninsula Manila [illegible]
New World Renaissance Hotel [illegible]

Service hotlines:
Ayala Center Hotline [illegible]
Ayala Center Text [illegible]

INQUIRER JUST SHOP

I am Swiper

www.ayalamalls.com.ph

See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-165, Series of 2005.

QIZI

More healing recipes

From page D1

Combine ingredients with 5 c water, bring to a boil and simmer 45 mins.

Clam Soup with Winter Melon

(Good for diabetics who are always thirsty and for those with urinating problems)

450 g winter melon, with peel on, seeded and cubed, from Aranque or any Chinese vegetable vendor

76 g clams, cleaned and scrubbed (promotes urination)

8 c water

Combine with 8 c water, bring to a boil and simmer until winter melon is soft. Season with salt, serve.

Dried Longan Soup

(Good for those suffering from hair loss)

Dried *longan* (dried form of the fruit)—good for hair loss, palpitations, forgetfulness, for the elderly

38 g dried *longan*, shelled
30 g *dang shen*
38 g black beans
113 g lean pork, sliced

Combine with 6 c water, bring to a boil and simmer 1 ½ hours.

Season with salt. Serve every other day.

Stewed Pigeon with Qizi

(Good for eyes, lungs and kidneys, for the elderly; Qizi is good for eyesight, liver, kidney, dizziness, weakness of joints and loins and impotence; lowers blood pressure and cholesterol and retards the ageing process)

19 g qizi (fruit of the matrimony vine, aka "Kamki")

1 dressed and un-marinated pigeon (Call Mely - 8193862)

2 c water

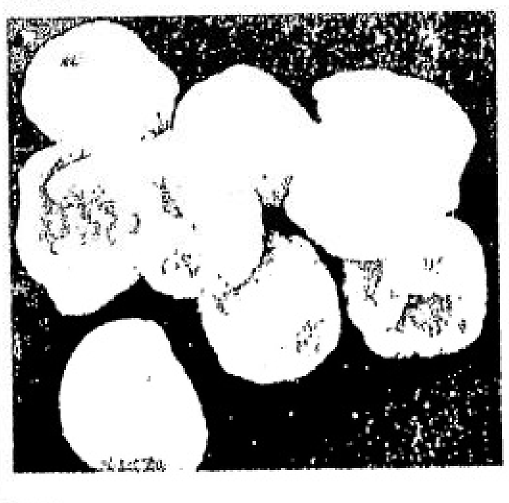
Clean pigeon. Put all ingredients in a saucepan with 2 c water. Simmer over low heat, 3 hours. Season with salt, serve.

**Source—Herbalist Chung-man Mak & Chinese Herbal Recipes*

New things to try

The Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel is now open and my good friend, Cyrille Soenen, the famed chef from the Prince Albert, is the man in charge. For all of us Prince Albert patrons who miss his food, the good news is he is opening his own little French Bistro within the 7 Corners Café real soon! In the meantime, you can drop by the 7 Corners Café to try his Chocolate Pizza—delicious! (tel. 6337222).

For questions and comments text 0917-8399888.



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